

# 1 Introduction

---

While putting together its programme for reform of public administration institutions, the Government of Afghanistan recognised the need to strengthen its capacity to provide effective environmental management and to integrate environmental issues into the reconstruction agenda. To address this need, the Government of Afghanistan requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide an integrated package of capacity building activities that contribute to the development of a stand-alone and self-sufficient Environmental Function with the required technical capacity to implement the government's environmental mandate. To achieve this goal, the UNEP Capacity Building Programme has been designed to consist of the following nine components:

1. **Environmental Coordination.** Facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects within the National Development Framework (NDF) through technical support to the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE).
2. **Institutional Restructuring and Human Resource Development.** Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Environmental Function, in accordance with the national reorganization and restructuring process undertaken by the Civil Service Reform Commission, through training and technical support in relation to mandate clarification, institutional restructuring, downsizing, human resources development and performance reviews.
3. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment policies, procedures and legislation.
4. **Environmental Legislation, Regulation and Standards.** Contribute to the development and institutionalization of environmental laws and regulations through training and technical support in the development of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework.
5. **Sub-national Environmental Affairs and Community-Based Natural Resource Management.** Contribute to re-establishing linkages between national, provincial and district levels of government through training and technical support, and through the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based natural resource management.
6. **Environmental Policy and Planning.** Contribute to the development of national environmental policy through training and technical support in the development of a national environmental action plan, and the establishment of mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination.
7. **Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting.** Facilitate State of the Environment reporting through training and technical support in the development of environmental monitoring, information management, analysis and reporting.

8. **Environment Education: Communications, Outreach and Education.** Increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making.
9. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Cooperation.** Assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support in project proposal development, legal harmonization, and reporting.

The Capacity Building Programme is funded by the European Commission (3'750'000 EUR), the Government of Finland (420'000 EUR) and the Global Environment Facility (through enabling activities) (325'000 EUR). In November 2005 the Government of Finland approved additional EUR 1,000,000 for the implementation of programme activities during 2005-2006.

Implementation of the UNEP Capacity Building Programme is managed by the UNEP Post-Conflict Branch (PCoB) (formerly the Post-Conflict Assessment Unit (PCAU)), in close cooperation with the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) and the UNEP Regional Office for Asian and the Pacific (ROAP). Additional implementing partners include UNEP Global Resource Inventory Database (GRID) and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.

The present report is based on the comprehensive progress report, which was developed for the year of 2004 and covers the period from January to December 2005. Sections 3 to 12 below outline the progress that was achieved against each of the programme activities listed in the original Phase I and Phase II work plans, including an estimation of the percentage completed. Additional activities undertaken have also been listed<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The reference numbers in the tables that summarize the progress achieved under each component correspond to the respective numbering of the activities in the original work plans of the EC Phase 1 and 2 contracts. Additionally following color code has been used:

	EC – Phase I activity		Estimated completion: 100 %
	EC – Phase II activity		Estimated completion: 75 %
	Additional Activity		Estimated completion: 50 %
			Estimated completion: 25 %
			Estimated completion: 0 %

Annex VI gives a visual overview on the percentage of completion of the planned activities as per Dec 2005.

## 2 The Afghanistan Context in 2005

---

In 2005 the political focus for Afghanistan shifted to the proposed Parliamentary and Provincial elections scheduled for October 2005. Political processes that are taken for granted in many countries needed to be established in Afghanistan given a barren history of enabling democratic institutions. Processes and rules for establishing political parties, nominating candidates and the structure of the Wolesi Jirga (lower house) and the Meshrano Jirga (upper house) were developed according to the Afghan context. The number of candidates and intense political rallying that occurred in the second half of 2005 was a testament to the ability of Afghanistan to become involved in election process. Despite voter turn outs being lower than the Presidential election in 2004 the Parliamentary and Provincial elections were considered to be a success.

Unfortunately the security situation in 2005 has seen deterioration from the previous year with insurgency and anti-government elements on the increase. The UN Department of Safety and Security reported a significant increase in the number of improvised explosive devices and other activities throughout the year. In addition, the abduction of an Italian aid worker in May highlighted the fragility of security and rule of law in Afghanistan. This trend of increasing insurgency has remained early in 2006.

Following the Presidential elections of 2004 the newly elected President H.E Hamid Karzai announced a reshuffling of Ministries of the interim Government of Afghanistan and as a result the former MIWRE was dissolved into the Ministry of Energy and Water. Unfortunately the Department of Environment was left without a parent Ministry and it was not until May 2005 that the DoE was given the status of an independent National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). H.E. Mr. Mostapha Zaher was appointed as its Director General and Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin as its Deputy Director General, reporting directly to the Office of the President.

NEPA in association with UNEP gained approval with exemplary comments from the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission on its Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) proposal. The PRR commenced implementation in late 2005 and combined with the promulgation of the Environment Law remains the two most influential achievements on the future viability and success of NEPA.

Progress made within the UNEP Capacity and Institution Building Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan should be considered against the above context.

### 3 Preparatory Activities and Staff Recruitment (Component 0)

#### 3.1. Introduction

The objective of Component 0 was to undertake a series of preparatory activities that will provide the necessary human and material infrastructure for the initiation and smooth implementation of the programme. These preparatory activities included staff-recruitment, programme planning, programme administration and procurement of office space and equipment.

#### 3.2. Summary of Progress

Activity		Status and Outputs	Ref. #	
0.1	Recruit and hire an international programme manager for the UNEP project office.	Programme Manager in place since 2004.	EC-I, 1.1	100 %
0.2	Recruit and hire National staff for the UNEP project office consisting of an administrative assistant, programme assistant, operations assistant, two translators, one network administrator, three drivers and three security guards.	Recruitment of national project staff completed.	EC-I, 1.2	100 %
0.3	Refurbish 14 of the offices of NEPA to house the UNEP project office, workspace for Afghan counter-part staff, an environmental library and a meeting room.	Refurbishment of offices completed. The UNEP Programme initially refurbished and furnished 15 offices within the premise of the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment for international, national and counterpart staff. With the establishment of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), new offices might be created in a different location from the existing site. If this occurs, the UNEP office will also move to the new premises. Further investment from project funds would have to be made to renovate and refurbish the new premises for NEPA and UNEP offices.	EC-I, 1.3	100 %

0.4	Procure two project vehicles and equipment for a minimum of 20 UNEP and NEPA staff including furniture, computers and office supplies.	Procurement of equipment and vehicles completed. The second batch of two vehicles were expected to arrive in Kabul in October 2005, however due to delays they will only arrive in 2006	EC-I, 1.4	75%
0.5	Relocate the UNEP Kabul office within the premises of MoEW.	Activity completed in 2004.	EC-I, 1.5	100 %
0.6	Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental impact assessment.	Recruitment completed in 2004.	EC-I, 1.6	100 %
0.7	Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental law.	Recruitment completed in 2004. Also see 0.10	EC-I, 1.7	100 %
0.8	Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of sub-national environmental affairs and Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).	William Van De Berg joined UNEP in May 2005 as the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Officer. Dr. Van De Berg has 10 years of experience as a cultural anthropologist and has worked on issues of community participation and natural resource management for the past 6 years, bringing experience gleaned in the United States, Nepal, and Tajikistan to bear on the CBNRM component of the project. Possessing a Ph.D. in Ecological and Environmental Anthropology, Van De Berg brings extensive field experience to the project, where his language and cross-cultural communication skills assist in the implementation of the field-based CBNRM component.	EC-I, 1.8	100 %
0.9	Conduct an introductory meeting of all UNEP project staff.	Activity completed in 2004.	EC-I, 1.9	100 %
0.10	Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Environmental Education.	The positions of international environmental law expert and international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) expert were merged. Belinda Bowling, who occupied the position of International Law expert, is now Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert. This step was taken in view of the need to ensure that the MEAs that Afghanistan has signed and will sign are translated into appropriate national legislation.	EC-II 9.0	100 %

0.11	Recruit and hire an assistant programme officer	Activity completed in 2004.	EC-II 1.0	100 %
0.12	Train the national staff recruited for the position of network administrator	Though this activity was completed in 2004, the network administrator left the job. Rather than hiring a fulltime network administrator, a shared network administrator was hired, who also provides services to the FAO office in the same building in which UNEP office is located. As ISP services in Kabul have significantly improved, this arrangement fulfils UNEP's requirements.	EC-II 7.8	100 %
0.13	Further training of national staff	<p>This is an ongoing activity.</p> <p>All national programme and support staff were given the opportunity to participate in English language training, which takes place twice a week for one hour on two different levels and started in April 2005. Short computer trainings three times a week provided to UNEPs national programme staff by the network administrator have started in June 2005. UNEP is financially contributing to the attendance of its administration assistant in a one-year course on business administration at the Kardan Institute of Business Administration in Kabul.</p>	Add.	Ongoing / 100 %

## 4 Environmental Coordination (Component 1)

### 4.1. Introduction

The international community is investing in development programmes and infrastructure projects in Afghanistan. To coordinate development planning, a Consultative Group (CG) mechanism was established to develop public investment programmes in 16 different development sectors in accordance with the goals of the National Development Framework (NDF). In order to integrate cross-cutting issues into the 16 different sector budgets, six advisory groups were established, including one on the environment. Members of the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE) include key ministries, donors, UN agencies and NGOs. UNEP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were nominated as co-focal points of the AGE until sufficient capacity is built within the NEPA to fulfill its mandate. While UNEP and ADB carry out this function on an interim basis, the NEPA requires capacity in the areas of stakeholder coordination and communication, information management, and inter-ministerial cooperation.

Under the direction of the new leadership of NEPA, a revised PRR Stage II proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Civil Service Reform Commission. The proposal includes creation of three fora: 1) a broad-based National Environmental Advisory Council, whose membership will include ministers, governors of provinces, tribal leaders, religious leaders, etc; 2) an Eminent Persons Council, whose membership will include prominent national and international personalities as champions for environment; and 3) an Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment. The latter has the same composition and function as AGE, and will remain in place even if the advisory groups are dissolved as a result of reformation of the CG system that is being considered by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community.

Objectives under component 1 are to facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects within the National Development Framework (NDF) through training and technical support to the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE) or the Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment.

### 4.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
1.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a secretariat for the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE) within NEPA.	<p>At present, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of NEPA is the focal point for AGE meetings while UNEP provides support to the DDG's office with regard to AGE meetings.</p> <p>In 2005 2 AGE meetings have been taken place.</p> <p>The PRR Phase II proposal includes the structure that will take up the function of the secretariat of the AGE or Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment.</p>	EC-I, 2.1	100%

1.2	Identify a minimum of five counter-part staff from NEPA for the secretariat for the Advisory Group on the Environment.	<p>This activity will be undertaken after the approval of PRR Stage II proposal and after NEPA has finished its staff recruitment process.</p> <p>The PRR Phase II proposal includes the structure that will take up the function of the secretariat of the AGE or Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment.</p>	EC-I, 2.2	0 %
1.3	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Secretariat for the Advisory Group on Environment.	See 1.2	EC-I, 2.3	0 %
1.4	Act as co-focal point of the AGE, in cooperation with ADB, by executing the functions listed in the AGE Terms of Reference.	<p>UNEP and ADB are acting as co-focal points for the AGE.</p> <p>Minutes of each of the AGE meetings were distributed and relevant action taken.</p>	EC-I, 2.4	Ongoing / 100 %
1.5	Establish an AGE matrix of ongoing, proposed and conceived environmental projects in Afghanistan.	A database was prepared on the ongoing and proposed environmental projects included in the 1384 National Development Budget (NDB). The database was annexed to the Public Investment Programme (PIP) for Environmental Management, submitted to the Ministry of Finance in April 2005.	EC-I, 2.5	100 %
1.6	Facilitate the identification and establishment of environmental focal points within each sector ministry and develop standing and ad-hoc technical task forces.	This has been difficult to achieve. However, NEPA is pursuing this matter with relevant ministries.	EC-I, 2.6	25 %
1.7	Establish a capacity building technical committee within the framework of the AGE with all donors and agencies involved in capacity building activities with NEPA.	A Capacity Building Technical Committee (CBTC) was constituted by the DoE at the level of Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) and one substantive meeting of the CBTC was held in November 2004. However, with the split of MIWRE, the CBTC technical committee has become defunct.	EC-I, 2.7	0 %
1.8	Facilitate NEPA's participation in meetings and task forces of the Consultative Groups, especially the Consultative Groups on Natural Resources Management and on Urban Management.	NEPA and UNEP participated in the relevant CG group meetings during 2005. However, the CG on Natural Resource Management did not meet during the reporting period.	EC-I, 2.8	Ongoing / 100 %



1.9	Establish a basic environmental library to support the AGE consisting of environmental reference materials, and information on best practice in environmental management.	The basic environmental library established in NEPA with the support from ADB and UNEP has been further equipped with two computers with access to internet and a printer connection. The two NEPA staff which have been trained for two month in English language and library management at the AIT in Bangkok returned to work in the library in July 2005 cataloguing the present publications and the newly arriving publications under a new system.	EC-I, 2.9	50 %
1.10	Assist in preparing written reports for the AGE, the CG Standing Committee, and donors	The Public Investment Programme (PIP) prepared for 1384 budget as a strategic policy document for mainstreaming environment issues distributed to the CGs and advisory groups.	EC-I, 2.10	Ongoing /
1.11	Assist in the preparation of an annual report for NEPA that highlights activities and progress made in 2004 resp 2005.		EC-I, 2.11	0 %
1.12	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Secretariat of the Advisory Group on the Environment into NEPA.	See 1.1	EC-I, 2.12	100 %
1.13	Assist in identifying the priority consultative groups that will be targeted by the AGE to receive inputs during the 1384 and 1385 budget process. Assist in establishing an AGE technical committee for each of the consultative groups identified, and in developing a work plan for reviewing sector budgets.	This activity will await the reorganization of CG mechanism, which is being reviewed collectively by the new government, donors and UN system.	EC-II, (1.)9	0 %
1.14	Provide guidance to each AGE technical committee in reviewing sector budgets, identifying environmental gaps, prioritizing environmental inputs, and estimating environmental project costs. Assist each AGE technical committee in the preparation of an input report to their respective consultative group.	The Inter-ministerial Committee on Environment will have the option of creating technical committees.	EC-II, (1.)10	0 %

1.15	Assist each technical committee in reviewing the final approved annual sector budgets to determine how AGE inputs were taken into account. Consider ways to strengthen the adoption of AGE recommendations by the consultative groups.	The Inter-ministerial Committee on Environment will have the option of creating technical committees.	EC-II, (1.)11	0 %
1.16	Assess options and develop a strategy for expanding provincial representation in the AGE. This should be conducted in cooperation with component 5 (sub-national affairs and community-based natural resource management).	This function will be undertaken by the National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC), which will have provincial governors as its members.	EC-II, (1.)12	100 %
1.17	Undertake a provincial participant selection process and facilitate the rotating participation of up to six provincial/regional representatives in the meetings of the AGE.	This function will be undertaken by the National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC), which will have provincial governors as its members.	EC-II, (1.)13	0 %
1.18	Facilitate the transformation of the AGE into a permanent body of NEPA for stakeholder consultations and coordination.	The Inter-ministerial Committee for Environment will become a permanent body for inter-ministerial stakeholder coordination and consultation as provided for in the PRR Phase II proposal. (See also 1.1)	EC-II, (1.)14	Ongoing / 100 %
1.19	Support for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report	As President Hamid Karzai would be attending the GA Special Session on MDGs in September 2005, a joint consultative preparatory process was initiated by the Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA. UNEP provided support to NEPA to ensure that the Afghanistan Country Report on MDGs includes the most recent data and analysis on Goal 7 on environmental Sustainability. While NEPA led the Technical Working Group on environmental Sustainability, UNEP provided technical support to NEPA.	Add.	100 %



---

## **Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for Environmental Management in Afghanistan**

### **Progress Report**

January – December 2005

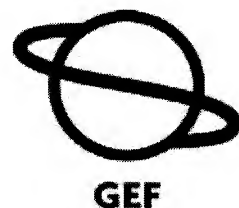
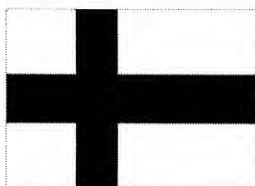
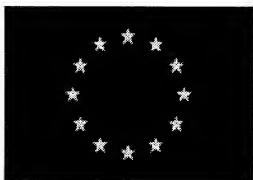
---

**UNEP Post-Conflict Branch**

Kabul, March 2006



A project funded by  
the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)



1.20	Support to the I-ANDS	UNEP PCoB assisted the Government of Afghanistan in building environmental considerations and benchmarks into Afghanistan's new development framework "Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS)", which is a five-year strategy that complements the MDGs. The I-ANDS will also be the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) for Afghanistan. Some of the I-ANDS benchmarks will be included in the outcome document of the Afghanistan donor conference scheduled in London in January-February 2006. (See Annex III)	Add.	100 %
1.21	Support to UNDAF	Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is one of the four pillars of the Afghanistan UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The chapter on ENR was drafted by a working group, co-chaired by UNEP and FAO.	Add.	100 %
1.22	Afghanistan- Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands	In December 2005 UNEP hosted a technical meeting between the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan and Iran on the shared Sistan Basin wetlands. The meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, helped initiate a constructive dialogue on restoration and sustainable development strategies for the Sistan region. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 2006.	Add.	100 %

## 5 Institutional Restructuring (Component 2)

### 5.1. Introduction

Although a specific National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has been created, its mandate, structure and staffing requirements have not been clarified. Furthermore, the NEPA does not have adequately qualified staff to work specifically on environmental management issues. Rather, the existing irrigation and water resources staff, consisting mainly of technical water and irrigation experts, consultants and engineers, were tasked with ad hoc environmental tasks. As a result, NEPA currently lacks capacity to implement its mandate. Technical assistance is needed to structure the agency, rationalize staff positions, and develop human resource management policies. Basic office equipment such as furniture and computers in order to perform basic management, technical and administrative tasks have been provided in the previous reporting period.

The UN system has committed itself to supporting a Government-led recovery and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. As the country emerges from crisis, two of the critical tasks facing the international community are the re-skilling of society and the re-formulation of the institutions of the state. All UN agencies are expected to play a supportive role in the longer-term reconstruction involving building state capacity. Several donor agencies are giving extensive support to the Civil Service Reform Commission to enable the Commission to effectively oversee and manage the process of reform, which has been initiated.

Objectives under component 2 are to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Environmental Protection Agency, by taking the NEPA through the processes of the Civil Service Reform Commission.

### 5.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
2.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Human Resource Team within the NEPA.	The concept of Human Resource Team is embedded in revised PRR Stage 1 and Stage 2 submissions to the CSRC for the restructuring and reorganization of NEPA, and has been activated after CSRC approved the PRR Stage 2 submissions (August 2005).  The PRR Stage 2 document contains the TORs for all positions in NEPA's new structure.	EC-I, 3.1	100 %
2.2 Develop a roster of national and international Afghan professionals that have suitable skills and experience to join the project either as counter-part staff or as short-term consultants.	Roster development in early stages.	EC-I, 3.2	25 %

2.3	Work with NEPA, the Civil Service Commission, ADB and other technical assistance providers on the government restructuring exercise.	<p>Since 2002, responsibility for environmental governance in Afghanistan has evolved from a Department of Environment within the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment, to an independent Department of Environment (Jan 2005), to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) (May 2005), which is reporting directly to the Office of the President.</p> <p>The changes in the institutional settings had to be adequately reflected in the priority reform and restructuring proposals (PRR) to be developed. After the separation of the Department of Environment from the MIWRE, both PRR Proposals – Stage 1 and Stage 2 – had to be revised. A transition plan outlining the division of assets between the MIWRE and the DOE, such as equipment and buildings, had to be elaborated. Furthermore a self-standing Finance and Administration division had to be foreseen for the now independent Department of Environment and an additional 29 job descriptions were developed. When the DoE became the National Environmental Protection Agency, all cross-references and names were adapted in the Dari as well as English versions of the documents. The former proposed structure of NEPA was changed and enlarged again when the newly appointed Director General of NEPA, H.E. Mostapha Zaher, took up office. The new PRR Stage 2 proposal not only comprises of the central level structure, but also of the provincial level structure consisting of eight regional hubs with provincial desks. Additional 119 job descriptions for the provincial level structure have been developed.</p> <p>UNEP supported NEPA in the development of its revised PRR Stage 1 and PRR Stage 2 Proposals, also in close cooperation with the CSRC. The revised Stage 1 and 2 proposals were approved by the CSRC in March respectively August 2005.</p>	EC-I, 3.3	Ongoing / 100 %
2.4	Identify and assist NEPA with the recruitment of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Human Resource Team.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal. (See also 2.1)	EC-I, 3.4	

2.5	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the NEPA staff of the Human Resource Team.	See 2.4	EC-I, 3.5	0 %
2.6	Organize a two-day workshop on institutional structures for environmental management in developing countries.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 3.6	100 %
2.7	Develop a human resource strategy and training methodology for NEPA.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-I, 3.7	0 %
2.8	Assist in the development and translation of a brochure on the NEPA containing general information on NEPAs mandate, mission, units, structure, and partners.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-I, 3.8	0 %
2.9	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Human Resources Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	See 2.1	EC-I, 3.9	100 %
2.10	Assist NEPA in the implementation of the public administration reform process, and in the restructuring of NEPA according to the decisions of the cabinet based on the recommendations of the Civil Service Reform Commission. UNEP will also provide input to the Afghan administration with regard to institutional options for effective environmental management should the mandate for environment be reallocated.	<p>The developed PRR Stage 2 Proposal for the National Environmental Protection Agency outlines its structure at the central level as well as at the provincial / regional level. UNEP is supporting NEPA in the implementation of its restructuring and reform programme after the approval of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.</p> <p>NEPA currently operates in Kabul with more than 65 staff from the former DoE and has 24 provincial offices, but has started the recruitment process for the key positions in the new structure, which foresees 6 divisions at the central level and 8 regional hubs.</p>	EC-II, (2.)5	Ongoing / 100 %
2.11	Evaluate new structure and progress made against objectives and benchmarks. Identify options for improving departmental efficiency and effectiveness	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (2.)6	5 %

2.12	Assist in the development of a strategy for the establishment and training of provincial or district offices of the NEPA.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (2.)7	0%
2.13	Facilitate on-going evaluation of the staff quality and performance indicators of NEPA.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (2.)8	0%
2.14	Gender Sensitization	In December 2005 UNEP organized an initial sensitization training on gender issues in order to assess the level of gender awareness and to enhance gender sensitivity of NEPA and UNEP staff. Two such courses will take place, each with 20 participants (12 NEPA, 8 UNEP). A follow-up training will be organized three month after the initial courses and UNEP will support NEPA in developing basic gender policy.	Add.	100 %



## 6 Environmental Impact Assessment (Component 3)

---

### 6.1. Introduction

Objectives under component 3 are to contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of environmental impact assessment guidelines, policies, procedures and legislation.

In the first half of 2005 the EIA component developed significantly from one focused purely on EIA to one that seeks an integrated approach to EIA and pollution control and management. This is a necessary response to the evolving ground situation in Afghanistan and in the modern context of environmental management practices it would be remiss if UNEP not to take this approach to the current situation. The approach has also partly been driven by the development of draft legislation under the environmental law component (Component 4). As such, this component has also responded to the need to develop policy that acts as a bridge between law and implementation. Most important in this is the role NEPA plays given its limited capacity and its evolving structure and functional responsibilities as an Agency and not a Department.

In the second half of 2005 the EIA component continued to develop the integrated EIA and pollution control management procedures at the national level. With increasing attention on the passage of the Environmental Law the approach was to clarify the policy approach to administrative procedures that allows the development of a functioning EIA system within the Government of Afghanistan. To this end the EIA policy discussion paper was completed and approved by NEPA for consultation. Additionally, the pollution control policy discussion paper was submitted and approved by NEPA for consultation. These papers are being translated into Dari and will be released for comment early in 2006.

In the period June to December there has been an increasing number of consultants, working on projects in Afghanistan, seeking to establish closer links with NEPA. UNEP has assisted in capitalizing on some the training opportunities for NEPA counterpart staff through attachment to these consultants and the review of donor funded projects.

UNEP has also assisted NEPA by providing technical inputs into a number of project proposals. In view of the imminent promulgation of the environmental law the technical capacity needs of NEPA will continue to grow in the first half of 2006.

Given the progress being made in this component the EIA Expert was requested to provide EIA support to the Liberia Programme. The mission to Monrovia in September incorporated a series of meetings and workshops with stakeholders to assess the best approach to EIA development in Liberia. Following this the EIA Expert undertook a mission to Geneva to assist the Post-Conflict Branch in planning best practice EIA approaches in post-conflict settings.

## 6.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
3.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Impact Assessment Team within the NEPA.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.1	100 %
3.2 Identify a minimum of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Environmental Impact Assessment Team.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.2	100 %
3.3 Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	<p>On-going.</p> <p>2005 has seen a large emphasis placed on the training of counterparts both in theoretical concepts and knowledge and the practical 'hands on' approaches used in real projects. Training in the latter part of the reporting period focused on institutionalizing the EIA provisions in the draft Environmental Law. Thus the training has shifted from theory to practice and the reality of implementing a specific piece of legislation developed for Afghanistan. Annex IV gives an overview on EIA training activities in Afghanistan and the resources translated into Dari for the implementation of the EIA component.</p> <p>All counterpart staff continue to attend basic English language and Computer classes.</p>	EC-I, 4.3	Ongoing / 100 %
3.4 Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counter-part staff through a "learning by doing" approach.	See 3.3 and Annex IV	EC-I, 4.4	Ongoing /
3.5 Conduct monthly field visits to example sites where EIA theory can be practically applied by the EIA team.	See 3.3 and Annex IV	EC-I, 4.5	Ongoing/ 100 %
3.6 Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial EIA technical committee	In the absence of a formal environmental framework law this has been difficult to establish	EC-I, 4.6	25 %

3.7	Assist NEPA, ADB, AACA and the Ministry of Finance in incorporating environment markers for all projects in National Development Budget (NDB).	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 4.7	100 %
3.8	Train and Ministry of Finance (MoF) staff in environmental impacts screening techniques and in the use of environmental markers.	Not completed.	EC-I, 4.8	0 %
3.9	Assist in conducting appropriate follow-up on NDB projects with high-anticipated environmental impacts.	Not achieved in this reporting period.	EC-I, 4.9	0 %
3.10	Assist in the development of an EIA progress report.	Completed and ongoing.	EC-I, 4.10	Ongoing / 100 %
3.11	Facilitate the participation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.	Five members of the EIA team (NEPA Counterpart staff) attended a training workshop on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, from 9 -18 January 2005 in New Delhi, India, which was organized by the World Bank.	EC-I, 4.11	50 %
3.12	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Environmental Impact Assessment Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	Completed in this reporting period through development of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-I, 4.12	100 %
3.13	Undertake a review of donors, UN agencies and key government Ministries to review the types of projects being conducted and the status of EIA in projects in Afghanistan.	Review of 1384 budget undertaken and major projects categorised for reference to sectoral development priorities. Some initial meetings held but coordination between ministries, donors and NEPA slow to develop.	EC-II, (3.)10	75 %

<p>3.14 Convene a workshop between donors, UN agencies and key government Ministries to discuss the current status of EIA in Afghanistan, and to agree on an interim approach for coordinating EIA's, sharing information, and involving government EIA focal points. The workshop should also focus on best practice in the development and implementation of EIA policy and legislation in developing countries. Review different EIA processes used by donor agencies and identify aspects that could be used to form the basis for an Afghan approach.</p>	<p>With the advent of the environmental law and development of the policy approach the proposed EIA procedure will be consulted through a discussion paper. A workshop may be convened in 2006</p>	<p>EC-II, (3.)11</p>	<p>50 %</p>
<p>3.15 Develop a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of EIA legislation in developing countries based on results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis. The report would be used as input to the EIA White Paper.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>A report on best international practice in the development and implementation of EIA legislation in developing countries has been prepared based on a review of regional countries undertaken to examine EIA practices from a regional perspective. Findings from the review of regional countries were used as input to the draft policy discussion paper also prepared in 2005. (See 3.21).</p>	<p>EC-II, (3.)12</p>	<p>100 %</p>
<p>3.16 Establish an EIA technical committee from selected government agencies who will be responsible for recommending EIA guidelines to cabinet.</p>	<p>This has not been possible to establish as yet due to issues of poor capacity, lack of legal frameworks, policy guidance and political will.</p>	<p>EC-II, (3.)13</p>	<p>0 %</p>

3.17	Develop a basic introductory guide in Dari and Pashto on EIA theory and application. Ensure the guide simplifies the EIA process, explains it in simple terms and outlines the differences between the different EIA processes used by ADB, WB, USAID, and various other donors. Distribute the guide to key national EIA stakeholders.	This will be achieved with the development of the EIA policy and regulations in 2006	EC-II, (3.)14	50 %
3.18	Establish an EIA registry within NEPA to receive all EIA reports, and organize EIA information from line-Ministries, donors and UN agencies	Established in 2004 and 4 EIA reports have been lodged.	EC-II, (3.)15	100 %
3.19	Develop guidelines for line-Ministries to be used during the project development and approval process for the 1384 and 1385 National Development Budgets	This activity is unrealistic at this stage given the capacity to develop and implement guidelines in this area are lacking at present.	EC-II, (3.)16	
3.20	Distribute EIA guidelines to line-Ministries and provide relevant training in their application	No progress in this reporting period.	EC-II, (3.)17	
3.21	Assist in drafting an EIA White Paper on the development of EIA policies and procedures including legislation, permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement. The White paper will form the basis for draft EIA legislation.	Completed and accepted by NEPA and translation to be completed early 2006	EC-II, (3.)18	100 %
3.22	Develop an EIA progress report. The publication would report on key progress made in the development of an EIA framework, and list key projects in the NDG subject to EIA	The EIA Expert prepares a progress report against each 6-month work plan as feedback.	EC-II, (3.)19	Ongoing / 100 %

## Executive Summary

---

The UNEP Capacity and Institution Building Programme for Afghanistan was requested by the former Afghan Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) as a key follow-up activity to the UNEP report entitled "Afghanistan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment", which was published in January 2003. The programme is being implemented in two phases during the period October 2003 to December 2006 with support and funding from the European Commission, the Government of Finland and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Basing on the comprehensive progress report for 2004, this report outlines the progress that was made from January to December 2005 within the nine components of the programme as outlined in the original project document. The main activity highlights and outputs achieved during 2005 are summarized below.

- **Institutional reform and restructuring:** UNEP supported the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) in the development and finalization of its Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR) proposals, supporting the necessary revisions of former plans following the separation of the Department of Environment (DoE) from the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) in January 2005 and its transformation into the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) in May 2005. This included the elaboration of a transitional separation plan, the incorporation of a separate finance and administration division, the development of a new structure including eight regional hubs with provincial desks, as well as the development of 216 job descriptions, associated budgets for the staffing and a recruitment plan. NEPA's PRR proposal has been approved by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) in August 2005 and UNEP is supporting the implementation of the restructuring process.
- **Environmental Coordination:** AGE: UNEP supported the organization of two meetings of the Advisory Group on Environment (AGE) in 2005. In March the AGE convened to prepare its environmental technical input for the Afghanistan Development Forum 2005. In October the AGE was chaired for the first time by the new Director General of NEPA and key environmental stakeholders were given an overview on NEPA's new structure, the Environment Act, EIA and Pollution control policy development. *Environmental technical support for MDG Report 2005, UNDAF 2005, I-ANDS:* Along with NEPA, UNEP co-chaired the Technical Working Group on MDG7, and provided extensive reference material to the drafting team of Afghanistan's report "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The drafting team's main document of reference was UNEP Post Conflict Assessment Report. The draft chapter on MDG 7 was vetted and amended by UNEP, before its finalization and release. Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is one of the four pillars of Afghanistan UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The chapter on ENR was drafted by a working group, co-chaired by UNEP and FAO. NEPA and UNEP assisted the Government of Afghanistan in building environmental considerations and benchmarks into Afghanistan's new development framework "Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS)", which is a five-year strategy that

3.23	Continue to develop and implement guidelines on screening and scoping of projects.	Completed and rolled into the development of an EIA policy discussion paper.	Add.	100 %
3.24	Development of draft Pollution Control policy paper	<p>During the reporting period UNEP engaged the services of a Consultant through the Finnish consultancy funds who provided a number of outputs for this component. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An international review of 10 countries providing a rational base for development of pollution control policy for Afghanistan.</li> <li>• Development of a pollution control and management policy options discussion paper.</li> <li>• Development and delivery of training workshops for NEPA staff on pollution management and control.</li> </ul>	Add.	

## 7 Environmental Law (Component 4)

### 7.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 4 are to contribute to the development and effective implementation of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework through training and capacity building to NEPA and relevant line ministries; and technical support in relation to legal and legislative reform.

Through the support to the development of the Environment Act as well as the through the facilitation of its promulgation the Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert made significant progress towards achieving these objectives.

The Act became law on 18 December 2005, on signature by the President of a decree to that effect.

### 7.2. Summary of Progress

Activity		Status and Outputs		
4.1	Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Law Team within NEPA.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.1	100 %
4.2	Identify a minimum of five NEPA counterpart staff for the Environmental Law Team.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.2	100 %



4.3	Conduct intensive training courses for the counterpart staff of the Environmental Law Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	<p>Ongoing. (See also Annex V)</p> <p>Training courses during the reporting period have included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sustainable development</li><li>- EIA legislation in developing countries</li><li>- Pollution control regulatory instruments</li><li>- Waste management regulatory instruments</li><li>- Climate Change Convention</li><li>- Basel Convention</li><li>- Ramsar Convention</li><li>- Convention on Biological Diversity</li><li>- Report writing</li><li>- Proposal development</li></ul> <p>Intensive training on the draft Environment Act (2 weeks in total), in which the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Agriculture and Food environmental law focal points also participated. In addition, a workshop on the draft Environment Act was held for officials in the Forests and Rangeland Department of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	EC-I, 5.3	Ongoing / 100 %
4.4	Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counterpart staff through a "learning by doing" approach.	<p>Ongoing. (See also Annex V)</p> <p>Daily "hands-on" training occurs as opportunities arise. Counterparts have worked closely with the expert in the fostering of collaborative relationships with counterparts in other ministries, preparation for international workshops and conferences, development of the Environment Act, and preparation for and organization of broad stakeholder consultation on the Environment Act.</p> <p>Some constraints in the adequate fulfillment of this activity have been experienced as a result of the delay in promulgation of the framework legislation. "Hands on" training will increase, however, once administration and implementation of the legislation commences.</p> <p>All counterpart staff continue to attend basic English language and Computer classes.</p>	EC-I, 5.4	

4.5	Conduct monthly field visits to key selected provincial authorities and communities to explore field-level legal implementation and enforcement of environmental law and to train provincial authorities to administer and implement the EPA.	This activity will be implemented after promulgation of the Environment Act.	EC-I, 5.5	0%
4.6	Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial environmental law task force under the AGE.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.6	100%
4.7	Provide inputs into the constitutional process to promote the inclusion of environmental rights.	Completed in 2004.	EC-I, 5.7	100%
4.8	Review the draft Environmental Protection Act to ensure it is consistent with international best practice, and that it provides a clear division of responsibilities between ministries and levels of government.	Completed 2004. See also additional activities 4.18 and 4.19.	EC-I, 5.8	100%
4.9	Develop and publish an annotated Environment Act.	Activity will be implemented after promulgation of the Environment Act.	EC-I, 5.9	75%
4.10	Conduct a needs assessment for training judges and lawyers on the Environment Act.	Activity will be implemented after promulgation of the Environment Act.	EC-I, 5.10	25%
4.11	Identify obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements to which Afghanistan is a party and determine a strategy for implementation and harmonization with new sectoral laws.	Ongoing. Certain obligations under CITES, UNCBD, UNCCD and the Basel Convention have been incorporated into the draft Environment Act.  Ozone regulations are being developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce to incorporate obligations under the Ozone Treaties into domestic law.	EC-I, 5.11	Ongoing / 50%

4.12	Facilitate the participation of the Environmental Law Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.	<p>Completed in 2005.</p> <p>One counterpart staff member attended a global UNEP environmental law and policy training programme in Nairobi in November 2005.</p> <p>One counterpart staff member attended a regional UNEP environmental law and policy training programme in Jakarta in October 2005.</p> <p>A NEPA official attended a similar training programme in Finland in September 2005.</p>	EC-I, 5.12	100 %
4.13	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Environmental Law Team into the new structure of the NEPA.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The activity will be finalized once the Priority Reform and Reorganization (PRR) process has been completed.</p>	EC-I, 5.13	75%
4.14	Assist in the identification of priorities for the development of sectoral laws and regulations. If possible, the priorities identified in the interim environmental policies and the National Environmental Action Plan developed in Component 6 should be used as the basis for legal development	Ongoing. See 4.16 below.	EC-II, (4.)6	Ongoing / 50%
4.15	Conduct relevant training seminars for judges and lawyers regarding the Environmental Protection Act and other new environmental legislation	To be undertaken in 2006.	EC-II, (4.)7	0%
4.16	Assess existing and proposed sector laws. Assist in the development and implementation of sector laws and relevant regulations.	<p>Further to a request from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Animal Husbandry, UNEP drafted the initial draft of the Forestry and Rangeland Management Act. The legislation will be subjected to stakeholder consultation during 2006, then submitted to the Parliament for approval.</p> <p>UNEP provided detailed comments on draft water legislation.</p>	EC-II, (4.)8	Ongoing / 50%

4.17	In cooperation with component 5, identify ways to enforce the national environmental legal framework at the provincial, district and community levels.	<p>Lack of rule of law in Afghanistan hinders the fulfillment of this activity. Until such time the central government extends its sphere of effective governance beyond Kabul, the task cannot be effectively implemented.</p> <p>Nonetheless, local governance options will be explored in two CBNRM pilot project sites during the course of 2006.</p>	EC-II, (4.)9	0%
4.18	Assist in the development of the Environment Act.	<p>With input from IUCN, draft 4.2 of the Environment Act, which was the draft that would be used for stakeholder consultation, was finalised in late January 2005.</p> <p>As has been the case with all laws drafted in English since the end of the conflict, significant problems and delays were encountered in accurately translating the draft law into Dari. The task was finally completed in-house in late April 2005.</p> <p>In May 2005 extensive consultation was held with all national stakeholders, who were invited to participate in a five day consultation workshop, held over a period of two weeks.</p> <p>A record of proceedings was kept of all comments made by members of the plenary and working groups, and those comments were incorporated where appropriate into draft 5.1 of the law.</p> <p>In addition, interested parties (UN agencies, ADB, World Bank, Bearing Point, USAID, drafters of other relevant laws etc.) were invited to submit comments on the draft legislation, which certain agencies did. Their comments were incorporated where appropriate into draft 5.1 of the law.</p> <p>Draft 5.1, which incorporated the comments of stakeholders and interested parties, was then sent to IUCN for peer review. It was also sent for comment to the Environmental Law Team (the American <i>pro bono</i> team of environmental lawyers who drafted the first 2 drafts of the Act), UNEP DEPI in Nairobi, and UNEP ROAP in Bangkok.</p> <p>Their comments, and final comments from NEPA, were incorporated into draft 5.3, which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for review.</p>	Add.	100 %

4.19	Facilitate the promulgation of the Environment Act.	<p>Preparatory meetings were held regularly with, among others, the Minister of Justice, the head of the <i>taqniin</i> and the environmental law focal point in the <i>taqniin</i> during the reporting period in order to pave the way for smooth passage of the legislation through the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Working closely with NEPA and the Ministry of Justice, UNEP facilitated the finalisation of the text of the Act over a period of two months. The final product reflects Afghan drafting traditional format to the satisfaction of the <i>taqniin</i>, yet the substance of draft 5.3 has not been significantly altered.</p> <p>Further to scrutiny by the Cabinet Legislation Committee and discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Act was submitted to the Cabinet for approval in December 2005. It became law on 18 December, the date on which the relevant decree was signed by the President.</p>	Add.	100 %

## **8 Community-based Natural Resources Management (Component 5)**

---

### **8.1. Introduction**

Prior to the outbreak of conflict, Afghanistan had a strong tradition of community-based environmental management. With the onset of war, many local governing structures collapsed, leaving an institutional void across the country. Currently one of the greatest institutional challenges to the Afghan Government is to implement national policy and enforce regulations at the provincial and local levels. Given that nearly 80% of the population of the country is located in rural areas, NEPA has identified the urgent need to establish provincial and local-level environmental authorities and to further develop community-based environmental management systems and opportunities for systematic ecosystem rehabilitation.

Objectives under component 5 of UNEP's capacity building programme are to contribute to re-establishing linkages between national, provincial and district levels of government through training and technical support, and through the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based resource management. These CBNRM projects will take place in collaboration with the Community Development Committees (CDCs) of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which are designed to close the gap between local and national levels of government while at the same time providing local communities with effective representation and decision-making. These local governance bodies are comprised of locally elected officials who represent their communities for both governance and development related purposes. As such, they will serve as effective representatives of their communities with which to plan and implement CBNRM activities in collaboration with UNEP.

For the purpose of demonstrating the wide scope of possibilities encapsulated in community-based projects, UNEP's CBNRM projects will be highly diverse in regard to their location, topical area and populations' ethno-linguistic background. Projects will address issues such as water and forest resources, rangeland management, wildlife protection, ecotourism development and environmental awareness and education. UNEP will attempt to conduct projects in locations spanning the diverse eco-systems found in Afghanistan and will work with communities of the major ethno-linguistic socio-cultural groups of the country (Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara). Such diversity in programming will serve as an effective role model for other communities that may wish to conduct similar CBNRM projects in their region.

### **8.2. Recruitment of CBNRM Expert**

The recruitment process for the CBNRM Expert was completed by IUCN in May 2004. At that time, the CBNRM Expert designate was working in Afghanistan as an NRM expert with an international organization. With the completion of the notice period with his employer, the CBNRM Expert designate was to join the project in Quarter 3, 2004. However, despite signing a contract with IUCN, the CBNRM designate did not join the project on the stipulated

date. This proved to be a setback for the project to place a qualified CBNRM expert for the inception of the sub-national environmental and CBNRM component. Given the circumstances on the ground, and in consultation with the DoE, the sub-national environmental and CBNRM component is now being implemented by UNEP through a UNEP-recruited CBNRM Consultant.

The recruitment of the CBNRM Officer was completed by UNEP in mid-May of 2005, when a suitable CBNRM expert (American Ph.D. Environmental Anthropologist) living and working in Tajikistan was identified, interviewed and hired after an extensive international recruitment drive was conducted. The CBNRM Officer is now on staff in the UNEP Kabul office and has identified two field sites for pilot CBNRM projects and implementation has begun in those locations. Current plans are to identify up to 8 more potential pilot project sites by April of 2006 and begin collaborating with local communities in defining their needs and goals within the parameters of the proposed CBNRM pilot projects. Once needs have been assessed and goals established, implementation of projects will begin and will continue through 2006. Monitoring and evaluation of pilot projects will then be conducted and lessons learned analyzed.

### **8.3. Status of activities**

Contact with NEPA and Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Forestry Officials have been established and concepts for CBNRM discussed with relevant officials. Meetings with key ministerial staff have begun and have been briefed on current status of projects. Once CBNRM jurisdiction is settled, appropriate ministerial staff will be identified to act as focal points.

Ten field site visits to identify potential communities for inclusion in pilot projects were conducted and two communities were selected for inclusion in initial round of project implementations. Projects were identified in collaboration with UN-HABITAT staff and discussions with community leaders led to signed agreements between UNEP/PCoB and Community Development Committees (CDCs) on project implementation terms. UNEP agreed to fund project costs on the condition that community members undertake all labor components of projects. Both projects are currently being implemented in Herat Province in the districts of Zinda Jan and Guzara, focusing on issues of fruit and nut tree forestation and water resource improvement and management. To date, projects are proceeding according to the agreed upon time line and budget and it is expected that projects will continue to be implemented on time.

Future field site visits are now planned for early 2006 to identify other communities for inclusion in the CBNRM project component. The inclusion of additional communities will be done for the purposes of expanding potential areas of collaboration with local communities on both more varied geographical and topical areas. Particular attention will be paid in including members of all of Afghanistan's cultural and ethno-linguistic groups for the purposes of demonstrating the cultural universality of successful CBNRM programming in a post-conflict state.

Working relationship with UN-Habitat and National Solidarity Programme has been established and the development of a tactical MOU to address scope of collaboration in project implementation is currently in the process of being developed and signed. On the ground cooperation with UN-HABITAT has been ongoing in both field site identification and current project implementations and it is expected that the MoU between UNEP/PCoB and UN-HABITAT will be signed in January of 2006.

#### 8.4. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
5.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Sub-National Affairs Team within NEPA	Contact with NEPA and Department of Forestry Officials has been established and concepts for CBNRM discussed.	EC-I, 6.1	25 %
5.2 Identify a minimum of five counter-part staff for the Sub-National Affairs Team.	Once jurisdiction over CBNRM is decided between NEPA and MoA, counterpart staff will be identified.	EC-I, 6.2	4 %
5.3 Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Sub-National Affairs Team and for relevant environmental focal points in other Ministries.	Activity will begin once counterpart staff have been selected and hired.	EC-I, 6.3	0 %
5.4 Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counter-part staff through a "learning by doing" approach.	Once counterpart staff have been hired, training will begin	EC-I, 6.4	0 %
5.5 Conduct monthly field visits to key selected provincial authorities and communities to explore community-based environmental management, restoration and enforcement.	Site visits were conducted to select communities to work with for Pilot Projects. To date, two communities were identified as candidates for inclusion into the pilot project programme. Projects have begun with both communities and initial tranches of funds have been disbursed to community organizations for project implementation purposes.	EC-I, 6.5	Ongoing / 100 %
5.6 Identify focal points and establish inter-ministerial technical committee on sub-national environmental affairs to consider options for the implementation of national environmental policy at the provincial and local levels.	Meetings with key ministerial staff have begun for introductory purposes. Once CBNRM jurisdiction is settled, appropriate ministerial staff will be identified to act as focal points.	EC-I, 6.6	25 %



complements the MDGs. The I-ANDS will also be the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) for Afghanistan. *Environmental technical support to the MAAHF*: UNEP assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food (MAAHF) in preparing the forestry and rangeland section of the MAAHF Master Plan. *GAIN*: UNEP contributed to the development of the Green Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) and became an official member in March. The purpose of the inter-agency activity is to coordinate activities, mobilize funds and provide technical expertise for preparing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on multi-sectoral activities, aiming at "Greening Afghanistan." *Afghanistan-Iran Dialogue on Sistan Basin Wetlands*: In December 2005 UNEP hosted a technical meeting between the Islamic Republics of Iran and Afghanistan on the shared Sistan Basin wetlands in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting helped initiate a constructive dialogue on restoration and sustainable development strategies for the Sistan region. The two countries committed to establish national advisory committees and to develop a joint GEF project for the restoration of the Sistan wetlands.

- **Environmental Legislation:** *EA*: The Environment Act (EA), Afghanistan's environmental framework law, has been approved by the Afghan cabinet in December 2005. The Act contains the tailor-made frameworks needed to sustainably manage and use Afghanistan's natural resources and to rehabilitate its damaged environment. The Act also clarifies institutional responsibilities and contains the compliance and enforcement provisions required to allow the Government of Afghanistan to effectively enforce the legislation. The EA was developed by NEPA with the support and technical advice of UNEP, IUCN and international experts over a period of 2 years. UNEP was the driving force behind the drafting of the Environment Act. UNEP also facilitated translation of the draft into Dari, and facilitated an extensive consultation process on the draft act with all national stakeholders (ministries, parastatals, civil society organizations) as well as other interested parties (UN agencies, ADB, World Bank, IUCN, USAID). UNEP thereafter facilitated the smooth passage of the legislation through the Ministry of Justice and its promulgation in December 2005. UNEP will support NEPA in the development of the subsequent regulations to the EA. *Development of sectoral law*: At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Animal Husbandry, UNEP drafted the Forestry and Rangeland Management Act, which will be subjected to stakeholder consultation in early 2006. UNEP also provided input on draft water legislation for the Ministry of Energy and Water.

5.7	Select two or more provinces to conduct institutional capacity assessments at both the provincial and district levels in order to develop options for community-based resource management and restoration.	Six provinces have been visited with intent to identify locations for CBNRM project development. To date, two districts of one province have been identified and included in the CBNRM pilot programme. Additional site visits will be conducted to develop other options for CBNRM project implementation.	EC-I, 6.7	25 %
5.8	Identify provinces and communities for participation in pilot projects through screening and site visits. This activity will be linked with on-going programmes including Solidarity and the Area Based Development Programme.	Two communities were selected for inclusion into project and agreements were signed between UNEP and community organizations over project milestones and funding tranches. Projects have begun and initial tranches of funding have been disbursed to communities. Future field site visits are planned to expand potential areas of collaboration with local communities.	EC-I, 6.8	25 %
5.9	Facilitate the participation of the Sub-national Affairs Team in up to two relevant regional conferences and workshops.	Not achieved in this reporting period.	EC-I, 6.9	0 %
5.10	Develop a strategy for the integration of the Sub-national Affairs Team into the new structure of the Department of Environment.	Once GoA decides jurisdiction over CBNRM, development and integration of SNA team will begin.	EC-I, 6.10	0 %
5.11	Establish three community-based resource management pilot projects in order to test options for community-based environmental management.	Two pilot projects have begun implementation and additional site visits are planned for further project site identification and development.	EC-II, (5.)5	75 %

5.12	Develop environmental reconstruction/rehabilitation proposals jointly with communities and community based programmes such as National Solidarity Programme, National Emergency Employment Programme, Afghan Conservation Corps and Area Based Development Programme	Working relationship with UN-Habitat and National Solidarity Programme established and the development of a tactical MOU to address scope of collaboration in project implementation completed and in process of being signed by all parties.	EC-II, (5.)6	50 %
5.13	Jointly with component 9, develop proposals with communities contributing to the purposes of the Multilateral Environment Agreements to which Afghanistan is party	Has not begun. Will begin in late 2006.	EC-II, (5.)7	0 %
5.14	Work in close cooperation within component 6 during the planning and implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan	Not achieved in this reporting period.	EC-II, (5.)8	0 %
5.15	Work in close cooperation within component 4 during the drafting of environmental legislation and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement	Not achieved in this reporting period.	EC-II, (5.)9	0 %

## 9 Environment Policy and Planning (Component 6) and Monitoring, Information and Analysis (Component 7)

### 9.1. Introduction

Sound environment policy decision-making and reliable policy analysis process depends on the quality scientific environment information collected from reliable environmental monitoring systems. Capacity building in the area of environment information analysis and scientific base for policy formulation is the key towards the sustainable use of environment resources and sustainable development of the country. The implementation of components 6 and 7 is the responsibility of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).

At present the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) is undergoing a reform and restructuring process, which will result in NEPA having six constituent divisions with discrete functions. The Research, Policy and Information Division of NEPA will be UNEP's counterpart responsible for implementing Component 6 and 7. Given the slow pace of civil service reform process, it is likely that the Plan of Action for Component 6 and 7 will keep changing till the reform process is completed.

### 9.2. Summary of Progress / Component 6

Activity	Status and Constraints	Ref.#	
6.1 Assist in developing an interim national environmental policy and associated priorities	Minimal progress has been made on this activity.  The National Environment Act was only decreed by the President of Afghanistan in December 2005. Thus, preparing environmental policy has been difficult without a legal mandate.	EC-II, (6.)1	0%
6.2 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) secretariat within NEPA.	Minimal progress has been made on this activity.  This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has finished its staff recruitment process. The NEAP secretariat will be in the Division for Research, Policy and Information. A more feasible and appropriate activity will be to initiate a National Environmental Policy process.	EC-II, (6.)2	0%

6.3	Identify up to five NEPA counterpart staff for the NEAP Secretariat.	<p>In late 2004, fifty-four staff of the Department of Environment (DoE) were interviewed by a UNEP-DoE team. Ten staff of the DoE (1 woman and 9 men) were selected to attend different training courses at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok and UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Bangkok. Six staff received 4 month generic environmental training and training in policy development after 1 month of intensive English language training. They will be considered to become the NEPA counterpart staff for the NEAP Secretariat. Experience shows that the capacity to develop a coherent policy would require further training through 2006.</p> <p>Institutional restructuring is occurring at present. The formulation of a NEAP or a National Environmental Policy will be one of the tasks of the Division for Research, Policy and Information. A final selection of staff and training should be delayed until the PRR process is complete.</p>	EC-II, (6.)3	50 %
6.4	Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial NEAP Task Force to work on all NEAP-related issues.	Given the institutional restructuring it is likely this activity will occur in 2006-2007 period.	EC-II, (6.)4	
6.5	Conduct intensive training courses for the NEAP secretariat and the NEAP Task Force. The course would be based on the World Bank NEAP approach, with reference to selected case studies and international best practice.	<p>As the Secretariat has not been identified as yet no training has been undertaken.</p> <p>Training in policy development has been given to NEPA counterparts in 2005. However, experience shows that the capacity to develop a coherent policy would require further training in the role of national environmental policy, preparing action plans and undertaking national consultation processes. (See 6.3)</p>	EC-II, (6.)5	50 %
6.6	Develop a strategy for the integration of the NEAP Secretariat into the new unit of NEPA responsible for policy and planning	With the implementation of the PRR plan, where the task to develop a NEAP lies in the Division for Research, Policy and Information, this activity is no longer necessary.	EC-II, (6.)6	100 %

6.7	Conduct workshop on best international practice on the development of a NEAP in developing countries. Individuals with experience in NEAP development would provide presentations on lessons learned, and their views on the development of a NEAP process for Afghanistan.	This activity would fit within the development of a National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (6.)7	0 %
6.8	Develop a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of a NEAP in developing countries based on the results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis	This activity would apply to the development of a National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (6.)8	0 %
6.9	Assist NEAP Task Force in developing a NEAP framework and timetable, and in clarifying how the NEAP will be used to inform government policies and on-going processes including the National Development Budget	No progress made.  Given the PRR and changing face of public administration in Afghanistan this activity is proposed to become the framework preparation for thematic areas for environmental management that coincide with the Environmental Law.	EC-II, (6.)9	0 %
6.10	Assist NEAP secretariat in the development of the National Environmental Action Plan, including conducting multi-stakeholder workshops, identifying targets and timelines, developing the action plan and recommendations. Ensure the activities of the NEAP process are conducted in parallel with and in support of the on-going development of the policy, legal, institutional and regulatory framework.	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 within a National Environmental Policy development process.	EC-II, (6.)10	0 %
6.11	Assist in publishing, translating and distributing the NEAP.	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 as part of the National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (6.)11	0 %

6.12	Conduct regional multi-stakeholder workshops on the contents of the NEAP	To this point in time there has been a distinct lack of a coherent regional approach to environmental management. With the implementation of PRR regional NEPA offices will be developed.	EC-II, (6.)12	0 %
6.13	Communicate the results of the NEAP to all on-going policy, legal and regulatory development processes and ensure adoption of recommendations. Facilitate the adoption of NEAP targets and priorities within the 1384 and 1385 National Development Framework and Budget	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 to align the National Environmental Policy with development of associated policy, legal and regulatory processes.	EC-II, (6.)13	0 %
6.14	Monitor and evaluate contents of 1384 and 1385 budgets to identify the level of alignment and correspondence with NEAP recommendations.	Some progress made in monitoring the projects entered into the Donor Assistance Database (DAD).	EC-II, (6.)14	50 %
6.15	Hold monthly meetings of the NEAP Task Force to monitor progress in NEAP implementation and to coordinate activities	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 within the development of the National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (6.)15	0 %

### 9.3. Summary of Progress / Component 7

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
7.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Information, Analysis and Reporting Team within NEPA The preparatory activities include establishing TORs and performance benchmarks for each secretariat staff member, developing a training methodology and mentoring approach, and identifying a work plan.	Within the new structure of the NEPA as outlined in its PRR stage 2 proposal the Division of Research, Policy and Information will, amongst other activities, take on the responsibilities of information, analysis and reporting.	EC-II, (7.)1	100 %
7.2 Assist in the identification and recruitment of a minimum of five NEPA counter-part staff for the Monitoring, Information and Analysis Team	In late 2004, fifty-four staff of the Department of Environment (DoE) were interviewed by a UNEP-DoE team. Ten staff of the DoE (1 woman and 9 men) were selected to attend different training courses at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok and UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Bangkok. After one month intensive English language training, two staff received 3 month GIS training and two staff received 1 month library training. Depending on the outcome of hiring under the PRR, they may become the appropriate NEPA counterpart staff for the Monitoring, Information and Analysis team.	EC-II, (7.)2	50 %
7.3 Assist in the identification of focal points in sector Ministries, and establish an inter-ministerial Environmental Information Task Force to work on issues relating to the sharing of environmental information	Currently there is a significant amount of work being undertaken by various UN agencies and donors. There is a need to better understand the priorities required for environmental information within NEPA and how to collect that. UNEP has started this work. Following this it will be possible identify the relevant ministries and UN agencies to be involved with.	EC-II, (7.)3	25 %
7.4 Conduct intensive training courses for the counterpart staff of the Monitoring, Information and Analysis Team and the Environmental Information Task Force	Some training has been undertaken as mentioned in 7.2.  Institutional restructuring is occurring at present. A final selection of staff and training should be delayed until the PRR process is complete	EC-II, (7.)4	50 %



7.5	Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counterpart staff through a "learning by doing" approach. The counterpart staff will be integrated into all monitoring, information and analysis activities and be given specific tasks and responsibilities	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 to support the development and implementation of the National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (7.)5	0 %
7.6	Assist component 1 in establishing a database of ongoing, proposed and conceived environmental projects in Afghanistan. The database should provide basic information on "who's doing what where", and should contain the information required for the National Development Budget process (Donor Assistance Database). Information for the matrix should be exchanged from the National Development Budget, the Donor Assistance Database and the UNAMA projects database	Limited progress made. Experience shows that undertaking this kind of work can be time consuming and subject to change in short periods of time and as such requires a good deal of maintenance to such a data base and the need for such information would need to be questioned.	EC-II, (7.)6	25 %
7.7	Assist component 1 in developing an environmental library within NEPA including the collection and translation of environmental reference texts, legal templates and information on international best practice in environmental management. UNEP to provide all background information, technical documents, sample results, GIS layers, maps and satellite images generated during the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment.	<p>Significant progress made.</p> <p>UNEP Kabul office made significant investment in providing books, computers, furniture etc.</p> <p>UNEP ROAP provided one month library training for two NEPA officials were conducted at AIT after completion of one month intensive English language training</p> <p>Trained officials are back to NEPA and involved in preparing the database of the existing publications with NEPA.</p> <p>Several institutions in South Asia and Europe were contacted for the collection of environment related publications.</p> <p>Documents from ICIMOD and European Environment Agencies and UNEP RRC.AP have been delivered to Kabul.</p>	EC-II, (7.)7	Ongoing / 75 %

7.8	Initiate a national process to develop a national approach for the collection, sharing, management, analyses and reporting of environmental information. Also develop a methodology for producing a state of the environment report for Afghanistan	Limited progress made. During 2006, initiate a national process to develop a national approach for the collection, sharing, management, analyses and reporting of environmental information.	EC-II, (7.)8	0 %
7.9	Assist in developing an environmental information management and GIS laboratory for the Department of Environment. The system should store and organize all environmental information collected or produced by NEPA as well as from other sources including Ministries, NGOs, donors and UN agencies. Opportunities will be investigated for using the UNEP.net or UNEP-UNCC database engine.	Some progress made.  Two NEPA officials were trained for one month in GIS Application Centre at AIT.  A list of hardware and software prepared during the field mission and procurement will start once quotations are received and vendor identified.	EC-II, (7.)9	50 %
7.10	Assist in conducting a national inventory of existing environmental information and data sources, based on the national guidelines and standards	Some progress made. Initial meetings with AIMS and other stakeholders held.	EC-II, (7.)10	25 %
7.11	Assist in the development, production, translation and distribution of a State of the Environment Report for Afghanistan	This activity will be undertaken in 2006-2007 within the development of the National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (7.)11	0 %
7.12	Assist in developing a strategy for establishing a monitoring framework for Afghanistan to track changes in environmental quality, natural resources stocks, and ecosystem function, as well as to monitor compliance with environmental permits	Limited progress made. As part of the development of regulations for EIA and pollution control it will be necessary to develop skills in compliance and auditing and develop indicators for the thematic areas identified for a National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (7.)12	25 %

7.13 Implement pilot projects to test and evaluate different approaches to environmental monitoring in Afghanistan.	This activity is no longer required given the refocusing of efforts toward creating a National Environmental Policy.	EC-II, (7.)13
---	--	------------------

- **Environmental Impact Assessment and Pollution Control:** UNEP supported NEPA to develop an integrated approach to EIA and pollution control and management at the national level. UNEP prepared a report on best international practice in the development and implementation of EIA legislation in developing countries based on a review of regional countries undertaken to examine EIA practices from a regional perspective. Findings from this review were used as input for the policy papers on Environmental Impact Assessment and Pollution Control, which were developed by UNEP and approved by NEPA for consultation. These papers are being translated into Dari and will be released for comment early in 2006.
- **Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM):** An international CBNRM expert was recruited and work was initiated on identifying potential field sites for pilot CBNRM projects throughout Afghanistan. Ten field site visits were conducted and two communities were selected for inclusion in initial round of project implementations. Projects were identified in collaboration with UN-HABITAT staff and discussions with community leaders led to signed agreements between UNEP/PCoB and Community Development Committees (CDCs) on project implementation terms. UNEP agreed to fund project costs on the condition that community members undertake all labor components of projects. Both projects are currently being implemented in Herat Province in the districts of Zinda Jan and Guzara, focusing on issues of fruit and nut tree forestation and water resource improvement and management. Future field site visits are now planned for early 2006 to identify other communities for inclusion in the CBNRM project component expanding potential areas of collaboration with local communities on both more varied geographical and topical areas.
- **Multi-lateral environmental agreements:** UNEP supported the incorporation of obligations under various multi-lateral environmental agreements (CITES, UNCBD, UNCCD and Basel Convention) into the Environment Act. Obligations under the Ozone Treaties are being addressed in regulations that will be enacted through the Ministry of Commerce. In addition, the NCSA implementation strategy was revised to promote a more cohesive and realistic approach to joint project implementation. Initial steps towards accession and ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands have been taken, including drafting the instrument of accession and preparing the terms of reference for all work required to nominate two wetlands for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. Funding has been secured from GEF for the purposes of undertaking the preparatory steps required for submission of Afghanistan's First National Communication under the UNFCCC.
- **Capacity Building:** *Counterpart training:* In 2005 UNEP continued to provide technical training to its 15 counterparts from NEPA in the fields of EIA, Environmental Law and MEA's. A part from training on theoretical concepts, an important part is the training on the job. EIA counterparts have been involved in various field assessments attached to EIA experts and have been representing NEPA in stakeholder meetings. Environmental Law counterparts have been deeply involved in the national consultation process on the Environment Act and MEA counterparts have prepared for and represented NEPA at

## 10 Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education (Component 8)

---

### 10.1. Introduction

Environmental education and awareness in Afghanistan is at a critically low level. Few teachers are trained in the delivery of environmental materials and there are no opportunities for professional environmental training. Furthermore, there are few on-going public awareness campaigns on environmental issues, and the local media is not generally trained in reporting on environmental issues. If Afghanistan is to develop national capacity and expertise to address the environmental problems it faces, the NEPA has recognized that developing opportunities for environmental education and improving awareness is an essential first step. Assistance is therefore needed to develop basic curriculum for primary and secondary schools as well as introductory courses at the university level, and standards for professional certification. The NEPA must also learn how to communicate its activities to Afghans and to use local media for information dissemination and awareness raising.

Objectives under component 8 are to increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making.

In 2005 UNEP did not have a dedicated person working on environmental education and awareness. Originally the function of MEAs and education and awareness was the responsibility of one international staff member and this person left the mission late 2004. In 2005 the MEA approval for the MEA function to the Environmental Law Expert was achieved.

In April 2005 UNEP became a signatory to the Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN), a joint programme with 6 other UN agencies. UNEP agreed to act as lead agency on the education and awareness function through the use of a UNV. The approval to employ a UNV was gained September 2005, however employment of a suitable candidate through this process has proved difficult. At the end of 2005, UNEP had secured the employment of a dedicated consultant to lead the component through 2006. This person will be assisted with a short term expert to also cater for support to the GAIN.

## 10.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
8.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Communication, Outreach and Education Team within the National Environmental Protection Agency	Within the new structure of the NEPA as outlined in its PRR stage 2 proposal a communication, education and outreach team is foreseen in the Information Section of the Environmental Research, Policy and Information Division. The Information Section will be composed of an Environmental Education and Awareness Officer, a Publication and Outreach Officer, one Website Manager, one Librarian and two GIS and Data Management Operators.	EC-II, (8.)1	100 %
8.2 Identify up to five NEPA counter-part staff for the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)2	0 %
8.3 Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial Environmental Awareness and Education Task Force to work on issues relating to raising environmental awareness and education.	This has been difficult to achieve. However, NEPA is pursuing this matter with relevant ministries.	EC-II, (8.)3	25 %
8.4 Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the counter-part staff of the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team and the Environmental Awareness and Education Task Force.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)4	0 %
8.5 Conduct daily "hands on" training of the counter-part staff through a "learning by doing" approach.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)5	0 %
8.6 Develop a strategy for the integration of the Communication, Outreach and Awareness Team into the new unit of the NEPA responsible for Communication, Outreach and Awareness.	See 8.1	EC-II, (8.)6	100 %

8.7	Review the ADB capacity needs assessment, and provide inputs in the development of undergraduate courses in environmental management and rehabilitation. Kabul University has requested the development of individual courses for environmental specialists, as well as a broad-based course that will be taken by all students as a prerequisite to graduation.		EC-II, (8.)7	0 %
8.8	Assess the needs and priorities for the development of environmental education curricula in primary and secondary schools in both urban and rural settings. The assessment would also determine the most effective mechanisms for countrywide delivery of the new curricula.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)8	0 %
8.9	Work with key national stakeholders, as well as UNICEF and UNESCO to develop environmental education curricula for schools based on the needs assessment.		EC-II, (8.)9	25 %
8.10	Develop a brochure on the NEPA containing general information on the Agency's mandate, mission, units, structure, and partners.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)10	0 %
8.11	Organize a two-day intergovernmental workshop in best practice in the public communications, outreach and education on environmental issues.	To be done	EC-II, (8.)11	0 %

8.12	Organize a one-day workshop for journalists on environmental reporting and awareness. Ensure broad participation from both Kabul and the major provincial centers.	UNEP and NEPA co-organized an Introductory Workshop on key Environmental issues in Afghanistan for ten media trainers of the Center for International Journalism (CIJ) in Kabul. The workshop took place on three half-days from 27 – 29 December 2005 in Kabul. The training covered sessions on the state of the environment in Afghanistan, ecologically significant areas in Afghanistan, community awareness regarding environmental protection, desertification, climate change, ozone layer protection, solid waste management, wastewater management, air pollution and the role of journalism in environmental protection. The participants from the CIJ were media trainers who will train a wide range of journalists throughout Afghanistan's provinces. Additional media training is planned for 2006.	EC-II, (8.)12	100 %
8.13	Develop a report on best international practice raising public awareness on environmental issues through formal and non-formal means.	To be done	EC-II, (8.)13	0 %
8.14	Assist in developing a national strategy for environmental awareness, education and outreach.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)14	0 %
8.15	Assist in the implementation of the national strategy including support in developing environmental awareness materials for a broader audience including posters, radio and TV programmes and commercials, and short educational films for use with mobile screens and projectors.	This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.	EC-II, (8.)15	0 %



8.16	Conduct awareness raising workshops at community levels targeting to reach illiterates and vulnerable communities in disaster prone areas.	<p>The development of environmental reconstruction/rehabilitation proposals jointly with communities and community based programmes such as National Solidarity Programme, National Emergency Employment Programme, Afghan Conservation Corps and Area Based Development Programme is currently in progress. Working relationship with UN-Habitat and National Solidarity Programme has been established and the development of a tactical MOU to address scope of collaboration in project implementation planned.</p> <p>See also 5.12.</p>	EC-II, (8.)16	50 %
8.17	Assist in the preparation of an annual report for the NEPA that highlights activities and progress made in 2003 and 2004 and 2005. The annual report will be translated into Dari, Pashto and English and will be published in both hard copy and electronic forms.		EC-II, (8.)17	0 %

<p>8.18 Assist in establishing a public information center within the NEPA to distribute information on environmental issues, progress and best practice.</p>	<p>This activity will be undertaken after NEPA has been restructured and reorganized through the implementation of the PRR Stage 2 proposal.</p> <p>Following awareness raising activities have been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP produced two environmental awareness raising posters on Water and Forest for Afghanistan illustrating their importance for present and future generations.</li> <li>• UNEP also supported NEPA in the development and printing of three information brochures in Dari and Pashto on wildlife, rangelands and sanitation. These brochures will be used amongst other also for planned training courses and outreach activities in the provinces.</li> <li>• The Kabul riverbed cleaning project started on 12 March 2005, wherein cleaning took place during the day-time in most areas but at night in crowded areas. Several hundred workers worked on the project, using excavators, bulldozers and trucks, and the waste was transferred to the Chamtala land-filling area. The project was funded by UNAMA and executed by Kabul Municipality, whereas UNEP and Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC) provide technical and monitoring support. A Phase II proposal is still pending, this proposal expands the cleaning of the river to the peripheric areas and comprises of an awareness-raising component to prevent the river from being used as dumpsite for the population.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Food (MAAHF), NEPA and the UNEP organized an awareness-raising seminar for about 100 staff of the MAAHF; NEPA; MRRD and Kabul Municipality to mark the World Day to combat Desertification.</li> </ul>	<p>EC-II, (8.)18</p> <p>50 %</p>
---	--	--------------------------------------

<p>8.19 Assist NEPA in celebrating World Environment Day.</p>	<p>UNEP supported NEPA in the celebration of WED 2005 in collaboration with other partners. Different events, covered by the media, took place on 5<sup>th</sup> June:</p> <p>Early in the morning, Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General, NEPA inaugurated a one-day training session in Kabul for 100 school teachers. This event, organized by UNEP, NEPA and Save the Environment Afghanistan (SEA), focused on enhancing the awareness on issues such as Wildlife and Habitat Conservation, Environmental Health, Renewable Energy, and on how to incorporate these issues in the educational programmes of schools in Afghanistan.</p> <p>In the afternoon, Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General, NEPA participated in the celebration of the completion of the cleaning of the priority 26 Kilometers of Kabul riverbed. The river cleaning project was funded by UNAMA and executed by Kabul Municipality, whereas UNEP and Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC) provided technical and monitoring support.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministry of Education and NEPA organized a joint environmental awareness workshop at Laisa Istiqlal in Kabul, while provincial offices of NEPA also celebrated the World Environment Day around the theme "Green Cities: Plan for the Planet" for this year.</p> <p>Radio and TV stations organized documentary and discussion programmes on environmental themes. Many governmental institutions like the Ministry of Defence, Kabul Municipality, etc organized cleaning and greening projects in Afghanistan on the World Environment Day.</p> <p>UNEP and NEPA released a special poster for Afghanistan on the theme of water, depicting "Water is Life".</p>	<p>Add.</p> <p>100 %</p>
<p>8.20 Assist Mountain Wilderness International (MWI) in the preparation for the first Environment friendly Mountaineering Course in Afghanistan in July/ August 2005.</p>	<p>UNEP supported MWI in the selection process of the candidates for the first Environment friendly Mountaineering Course in Afghanistan as well it the logistical preparations for the course and the final graduation ceremony.</p>	<p>Add.</p> <p>100 %</p>

# 11 Multilateral environmental agreements (Component 9)

## 11.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 9 are to assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support.

During the reporting period, the Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert made progress towards achieving these objectives:

## 11.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs	Ref.#	
<p>9.1 Facilitate the participation of Afghan staff in various COP and technical meetings of the conventions, and assist in the development of relevant progress reports.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Facilitated Afghanistan's representation at various meetings (including meetings organized by Montreal Protocol, CMS, UNFCCC, UNCCD and Ramsar) by building nominated officials' individual capacities through briefings and assistance in the preparation of Afghanistan's presentations and positions.</p> <p>Coordinated the collection of information and compiled and edited a report on desertification in Afghanistan, which was submitted to the Third Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of UNCCD, held in May in Bonn, Germany.</p> <p>Assisted in the development of a report on Afghanistan's role in protection of the Central Asian Flyway for submission to the regional CMS meeting held in Agra, India in June.</p> <p>(See also Annex II)</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)1</p>	<p>Ongoing / 100 %</p>
<p>9.2 Facilitate participation in the next ECO meeting, and assist in the development of a status report on progress made in the implementation of the plan of action for the Tehran Declaration on Cooperation among ECO Member States.</p>	<p>Attendance at ECO meeting completed in 2004.</p> <p>Status report has not yet been developed, but will be during the next reporting period.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)2</p>	<p>50 %</p>
<p>9.3 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional cooperation secretariat within NEPA.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Provision has been made for the establishment of such a unit in the proposed new structure of NEPA, which has been approved in August 2005.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)3</p>	<p>Ongoing / 100</p>

9.4	Identify up to five NEPA counterpart staff for the MEA Secretariat	Completed in 2004.	EC-II, (9.)4	100 %
9.5	Identify focal points and establish an inter-ministerial MEA Task Force to work on all MEA-related issues	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Extensive consultation has taken place within the Ministry of Agriculture in regard to rearranging responsibilities within that ministry in relation to UNCDB, UNCCD, CITES and Basel Convention.</p> <p>The focal point for CBD has been moved from the Research Department to the more appropriate Forests and Rangeland Department, which change has been communicated to the Secretariat.</p> <p>The focal point for CITES has received additional training, and an inter-ministerial CITES committee has been established and has met once. Terms of reference for that committee are currently being developed.</p> <p>In view of the demise in effectiveness of the Advisory Group on Environment, an inter-ministerial MEA task force will in all likelihood be established under the auspices of the Committee for Environmental Coordination, which the draft Environmental Management Act establishes.</p>	EC-II, (9.)5	Ongoing / 100 %
9.6	Conduct month-long intensive training courses for the MEA secretariat and the MEA Task Force.	<p>MEA counterparts will soon begin working every day from 3.00pm to 5.00pm in the Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert's office on implementing enabling activities under UNFCCC, in respect of which we are awaiting the release from GEF of secured funding. Computers, desks and an internet connection have been set up.</p> <p>Members of the MEA task force, once it is established, will receive training on MEAs as required. It is however unlikely that officials on the task force will be permitted to attend a full month's course on MEAs. It is anticipated that piecemeal training, in the form of daylong workshops, is more realistic.</p>	EC-II, (9.)6	Ongoing / 75 %
9.7	Develop a strategy for the integration of the MEA Secretariat into the new unit of NEPA responsible for International and Regional Cooperation.	See 9.3	EC-II, (9.)7	100 %

9.8	Assist in fulfilling the administrative obligations of each ratified convention in order to become eligible to receive technical and financial assistance	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Obligations under CITES have been incorporated into the draft Environmental Management Act, as have a number of obligations under UNCBD, UNCCD and Basel Convention. Obligations under the Ozone Treaties are being addressed in regulations that will be enacted through the Ministry of Commerce.</p> <p>The activities undertaken during the reporting period by the National Ozone Unit, with support from UNEP are summarized in the NOU reports.</p> <p>Negotiations have been initiated with GEF regarding the provision of funding under the relevant conventions to enable Afghanistan to undertake the following enabling activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under UNCBD.</li> <li>• Preparation of a National Action Plan under UNCCD.</li> <li>• Preparation of the First National Communication under UNFCCC.</li> </ul> <p>It is anticipated that these activities will commence during the next reporting period.</p>	EC-II, (9.)8	Ongoing / 100 %
9.9	Work with NEPA to consider other international environmental conventions that should be ratified by Afghanistan, using a convention cluster approach.	<p>Green convention cluster is the priority.</p> <p>Initial steps towards accession and ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands have been taken, including discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ramsar Secretariat regarding the matter, drafting the instrument of accession and preparing the terms of reference and recruiting an international consultant to undertake all work required to nominate 2 wetlands for inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, which is an accession prerequisite. The consultant will commence this activity in the first quarter of 2006.</p> <p>Discussions have been held with the Ministry of Agriculture and Secretariat for the Convention on Migratory Species regarding accession and ratification, which is pending.</p>	EC-II, (9.)9	

international meetings with regard to specific MEAs. In addition to technical training, weekly professional skills training was organized for NEPA counterpart staff. Priorities in 2005 were English language proficiency and basic computer skills. Counterparts also received training in report writing and proposal development. *Training at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)*: 10 NEPA staff were selected to attend different training courses at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok in early 2005. Following English language training in April 2005, 6 staff attended a four-month environmental management technical training course, 2 staff attended a three-month GIS/RS technical training course (Global Information System/ Remote Sensing) and 2 staff attended a one-month library-training course. This training was being conducted in close partnership with the UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia Pacific (RRC.AP) and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP). *International conferences*: In 2005 UNEP facilitated the participation of 26 Afghan delegates in 18 regional and international conferences, meetings or workshops as well as the participation of 25 Afghan delegates in 9 international/ regional training courses (See Annex II). UNEP assisted in the organization of weekly sessions ("Thursday sessions") for all NEPA staff, where participants in the above-mentioned events held presentations on the content of the attended meetings in order to share their experiences and lessons learned with colleagues. *Gender Training*: UNEP organized an initial sensitization training in order to assess the level of gender awareness and to enhance gender sensitivity of the NEPA and UNEP staff.

- **Environmental Awareness:** *Posters, information leaflets and brochure*: UNEP developed, printed and distributed posters on water and forests as well as information leaflets on wildlife, rangelands, waste-water and solid waste in Dari and Pashto. UNEP also developed a brochure on its Capacity Building Programme, which will be distributed in 2006. *World Environment Day*: UNEP supported NEPA in the celebration of WED 2005 in June in collaboration with other partners. A one-day training session in Kabul for 100 school teachers was organized by UNEP, NEPA and Save the Environment Afghanistan (SEA). The training focused on enhancing awareness on issues such as wildlife and habitat conservation, environmental health, renewable energy, and on how to incorporate these issues in the educational programmes of schools in Afghanistan. Radio and TV stations organized documentary and discussion programmes on environmental themes. A variety of governmental institutions including the Ministry of Defense, Kabul Municipality, and others organized cleaning and greening projects. *Kabul river clean-up*: UNEP provided technical support towards the clean-up of 26 kilometers of Kabul riverbed. This was an emergency measure undertaken in collaboration the Kabul Municipality, the Afghan Conservation Corps, and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) to reduce risks from flooding. *World Day to Combat Desertification*: The Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Food (MAAHF), NEPA and the UNEP organized an awareness-raising seminar for about 100 staff of the MAAHF; NEPA; MRRD and Kabul Municipality to mark the World Day to combat Desertification on 17 June. *Environment Friendly Mountaineering Course*: UNEP, USAID and AKDN sponsored and facilitated the implementation of Afghanistan's first Environment Friendly Mountaineering course, which was organized by the NEPA and Mountain Wilderness International (MWI) and conducted in July. The 22 graduates of the course acquired skills

9.10	Link with component 4 to ensure national legislation is harmonized with the obligations of international environmental conventions to which Afghan is a party or intends to become a party	MEA considerations incorporated into Environment Act, which was passed on 18 December 2005.	EC-II, (9.)10	100 %
9.11	Conduct workshop on best international practice on the implementation of MEAs in developing countries. Individuals with experience in MEA implementation would provide presentations on lessons learned	Will occur once the International Relations Division of NEPA is fully established.	EC-II, (9.)11	0 %
9.12	Develop report on best international practice in the implementation of MEAs in developing countries based on the results of the workshop and on additional information and analysis.	To be developed during the next reporting period.	EC-II, (9.)12	0 %
9.13	Assist in holding a 2 day inter-ministerial meeting on transboundary environmental issues covering the themes of water, forests, parks and endangered species. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify government policy and develop a plan of action for addressing transboundary management needs.	To be developed during the next reporting period.	EC-II, (9.)13	0 %
9.14	Assist in the development of a strategy to begin implementation of MEAs to which Afghanistan is a party and to strengthen regional cooperation and transboundary management	Ongoing. Green convention cluster is the priority at present.	EC-II, (9.)14	Ongoing / 100 %



<p>9.15 Assist in the preparation and implementation of GEF enabling activity projects, in particular, the First National Communications under UNFCCC, a National Capacity Self-Assessment, a National Adaptation Programme of Action, and a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The second meeting of the Steering Committee meeting was held on 6 May during the UNEP-GEF mission to Kabul. In the meeting, briefings on subject background, project objectives, and work plans were given to the SC members and their comments and views were sought and adopted.</li> <li>• Key documents related to NAPA and NCSA including convention texts, CoP decisions, methodological guidelines and development processes in Afghanistan were translated from English to Dari, and distributed to the project team including the steering committee members.</li> <li>• Training of the National Project Coordinator on NCSA and NAPA took place through attendance to two workshops held respectively in Tanzania and Malaysia.</li> <li>• Work plans were prepared for the NAPA and NCSA projects, and drafting and reviewing of TORs for NAPA and NCSA project steering committee took place.</li> <li>• The inception period for the two projects gave NEPA and UNEP an opportunity to assess challenges encountered during implementation and to discuss and review the strategy for the project implementation. Over a four-day period, the project team with support from UNEP discussed in detail objectives, activities and expected outputs of the two projects. The tasks were divided into four subject matters, each having a Working Group: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification and Cross-Cutting. The assessment processes for both NCSA and NAPA were divided into three major phases: Gaps and Vulnerability Assessment, Needs Assessment and Prioritization, and Action Planning and Policy. Each Working Group is spearheaded by a National Lead Agency (NLA), which will be responsible for the implementation of the tasks assigned to the respective Working Group, and for coordinating inputs from Collaborating National Agencies (CNA). In addition, each Working Group will be supported by an international consultant to provide necessary technical guidance and capacity building for the group.</li> </ul>	<p>EC-II, (9.)15</p>
<p>9.16 Assist in the preparation and implementation of medium and large-sized GEF projects</p>	<p>Ongoing. UNEP has focussed in particular on a UNDP sustainable land management MSP.</p>	<p>EC-II, (9.)16</p>

Ongoing / 100 %

Ongoing / 100 %

9.17	Assist the ministry in participating in the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC)		EC-II, (9.)17	0%
9.18	Assist in the initial exploration of opportunities for developing carbon trading agreements for Afghanistan under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.	Too advanced a mechanism for Afghanistan at present. Activity cannot be implemented and should be removed.	EC-II, (9.)18	0%

## 12 Conclusions and Next Steps

---

### 12.1. Progress made, lessons learned and the focus areas for 2006

Based on the needs of the country, there is little question that the restoration and sustainable use of natural resources in Afghanistan is the key for poverty alleviation, sustainable development and for improving quality of life of the Afghan people. UNEP looks forward to its continued partnership with NEPA in pursuit of this goal. However, addressing the environmental problems in Afghanistan is an immense challenge that will take decades to achieve by the Government of Afghanistan and its National Environmental Protection Agency. Sustained financial assistance and technical support will be needed during the entire process from the international community.

UNEP is contributing to environmental progress and sustainable development in Afghanistan in a step-wise and incremental manner. In 2002, the UNEP post-conflict environmental assessment provided the base-line information on the current environmental conditions in the country. This information was critical for understanding the impacts caused by the conflict, and for establishing policy priorities and field-based projects. UNEP provided 163 recommendations for action, and outlined the steps that would be needed to fully integrate environmental considerations into the development framework of the country. The UNEP report firmly placed environmental issues on the reconstruction agenda, and led to significant allocations in the national budget toward resource management programmes and projects.

The progress that has been made by UNEP and NEPA during 2003 – 2005 has focused on developing a sound institutional, legal and human resource base. These activities are an essential pre-requisite for long-term environmental management and will form the foundation for success in the future. The first steps in this process have been the identification and training of staff, and the development of national policies and laws that have firm Afghan ownership. Progress was made in both areas in 2003-2005 by the UNEP programme. Key outputs include an Environment Act, a detailed institutional structure for NEPA, policy papers on EIA and pollution control, the establishment of the Advisory Group on Environment, the development of community-based resource management projects and progress in the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements to which Afghanistan is a party.

During the implementation of the programme, many key lessons have been learned:

- Any capacity building programme should be a genuine partnership with national authorities with joint needs identification and programme planning. Treating counterpart governmental structures with respect and dignity go a long way in establishing trusting relationships.
- A capacity building programme should not be tied to the completion of the Government and civil service reforms common in the post-conflict setting. These can often be time-consuming processes and the need to implement environmental mandates cannot be delayed because of the dynamic nature of post-conflict governance.

- As the environmental authorities are often the weakest of all the Ministries, with the lowest budget allocations and the least access to decision-making, innovative ways must be found to strengthen their hand and increase their access. At the same time, UNEP's interface should not be restricted to the environmental authority, but rather a collective pool of Ministries and institutions responsible for Agriculture, Energy, Water, Urban Affairs, Tourism, Planning, Commerce and Finance. This spreads the investment, reduces risk and increases awareness and capacity at all levels.
- As the outcomes of capacity building programmes are not physical, visible outputs are also needed that can demonstrate progress as well as the benefits of natural resources management.
- While capacity building programmes should follow an overall workplan, they must still retain sufficient flexibility to respond to demand-driven needs as well as field and security conditions.
- Capacity must be built at both the national as well as local levels. In particular, community-based natural resources management programmes are an essential element that can provide quick wins and visible outcomes.
- To the extent possible, programmes should be based on regional expertise and South-South cooperation models. In UNEP's experience, regional experts with national language skills have been one of the most critical success factors.

For 2006, the UNEP Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Environmental Management Programme in Afghanistan will build on the previous successes and focus on the following key areas:

- **Component 1: Environmental Coordination:** Support will continue to the Advisory Group on Environment (AGE) and the Inter-ministerial Committee, which will replace the AGE in due course as the mechanism for coordination between ministries. UNEP will also continue to provide environmental technical inputs to the United Nations Country Team and to coordinate activities with key stakeholders in Afghanistan.
- **Component 2: Institutional Restructuring:** UNEP will continue to support NEPA in the implementation of the reform and restructuring process and in the recruitment and training of core technical staff. A particular challenge will be supporting the establishment of the eight regional environmental hubs.
- **Component 3: Environmental Impact Assessment:** The key focus areas for EIA include finalising EIA and integrated pollution control policies that target the administrative responsibilities of NEPA. Once policies have been agreed to by all stakeholders, systems for screening, scoping, liaison with proponents, reporting, approvals, appeals, monitoring and compliance will need to be developed. Commensurate with these systems is the need to develop capacity of an EIA board of experts and the EIA capacity within line ministries.

- **Component 4: Environmental Law:** The first focus area for the environmental law component is NEPA itself. In this regard, it is necessary to develop the institutional units needed to effectively administer and implement the Environment Act, as well as to develop the required human capacity within those particular units. Insofar as the Environment Act is framework legislation, it will be necessary to develop regulations under the Act to give the framework its regulatory substance. UNEP will also facilitate the development of sectoral environmental legislation to ensure consistency with the overall regulatory framework. In the second half of 2006, training will also be provided on the entire environmental regulatory framework (Environment Act, regulations under it and sectoral laws) to line ministries, authorities at the sub national levels, and the judiciary.
- **Component 5: Community Community-based natural resource management:** UNEP will seek to increase the number of CBNRM pilot projects being implemented to 10 in order to expand the topical and geographical diversity of its programming. Future pilot projects will focus on topics such as encouraging effective rangeland management, supporting improved water resource management, and facilitating reforestation of traditional fruit and nut tree varieties. Additionally, UNEP will provide guidance and support to communities seeking to introduce non-traditional forms of CBNRM, such as the development of eco and adventure tourism for the purposes of environmental conservation and livelihood generation. Such novel programming will allow communities to generate enhanced community revenues by capitalizing on the preservation of their locally available natural resources. Lastly, UNEP will train Afghan counterparts in the principals of CBNRM project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in an effort to enhance the sustainability of the programme.
- **Component 6 and 7: Environmental Policy and Planning and Monitoring, Information and Analysis:** A combination of factors has altered the proposed activities and outcomes of Components 6 and 7 including an ongoing reform and restructuring process within NEPA. Given these factors, a revised work plan for Components 6 and 7 will reflect the current needs and capabilities of the newly established Research, Policy and Information Division (RPID) for capturing environmental data in support of the development of environmental policy. The work plan will be based on the mandate of NEPA, functions of RPID and the provisions of the newly approved Environmental Law.
- **Component 8: Environment Education:** With the start of work of an Environmental Awareness and Education Consultant in early 2006 UNEP's work will focus on documenting the needs and priorities for integration of environmental components into primary and secondary curricula in both urban and rural settings. UNEP will also liaise with relevant tertiary institutions in Kabul and stakeholders to determine their needs and prepare an assessment for the development of individual courses that could be implemented for training of environmental specialists. The development of a national strategy for environmental education and awareness including the incorporation of environmental issues into the national curricula will be assisted. Trainings on environmental information will be organized for Afghan media professionals and training provided to NEPA staff and other relevant stakeholders.

- **Component 9: Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** The primary focus will be on finalising the National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (NCSA) and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) projects and developing Afghanistan's Initial National Communication, the first enabling step under the Climate Change Convention. NEPA will also seek to access funding under the Biodiversity Convention to develop Afghanistan's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. A secondary focus will be on acceding to those "green" Conventions to which Afghanistan is not yet a Party, namely the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS). Accession to the "brown" Conventions will follow in 2007.

In addition to UNEP, other international agencies are expected to continue or begin implementation of a number of environmental activities in 2006. These include projects by ADB on protected areas conservation, renewable energy and air pollution, a GEF project by UNDP on Sustainable Land Management, and various biodiversity and conservation projects by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). This is a positive development for the environment sector that will require increased coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the most efficient use of limited funds.

## Annex I: Overview on UNEPs staff and organization in Kabul and UNEPs Counterpart Staff from the NEPA

---

### I. Staff List UNEP Kabul

Name	Title
Asif Zaidi	Programme Manager
George Bouma	Environmental Impact Assessment Expert
Belinda Bowling	Environmental Law and International Conventions Expert
William Van De Berg	Community-based Natural Resources Expert
Fatemah Shams	Associate Programme Officer
Abdul Wali Modaqiq	National Project Coordinator
Abdul Baqi	Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assistant National Project Coordinator Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Mohammad Sayed Qazi	Programme Assistant
Zalmai Zamani	Operations Assistant
Ajmal Nikzad	Administration Assistant
Khalid Azim	IT Officer (part-time)
Qadeer Karyab	Senior Translator
Razia Naseri	Translator
Ghulam Sakhi Nawazish	Translator
Mohammad Anwar	Driver
Shekeb Ahmad	Driver
Mohammad Latif	Driver
Ali Ahmad	Driver
Abdul Qader	Caretaker
Ahmad Fahim	Unarmed Guard
Nasir Ahmad	Unarmed Guard

### II. UNEP PCAU, Geneva – Support for Afghanistan

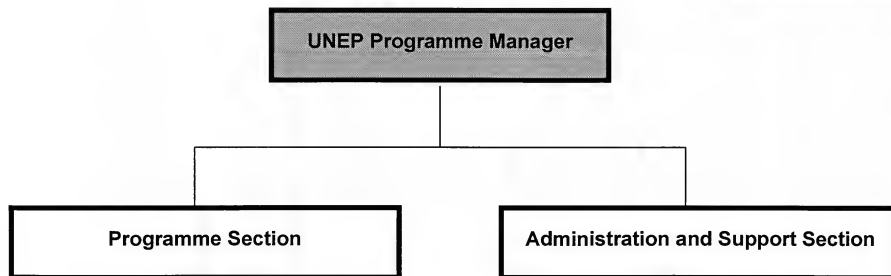
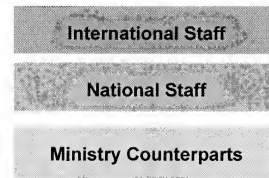
Name	Title
David Jensen	Project Coordinator

### III. UNEP RRC.AP staff, Bangkok

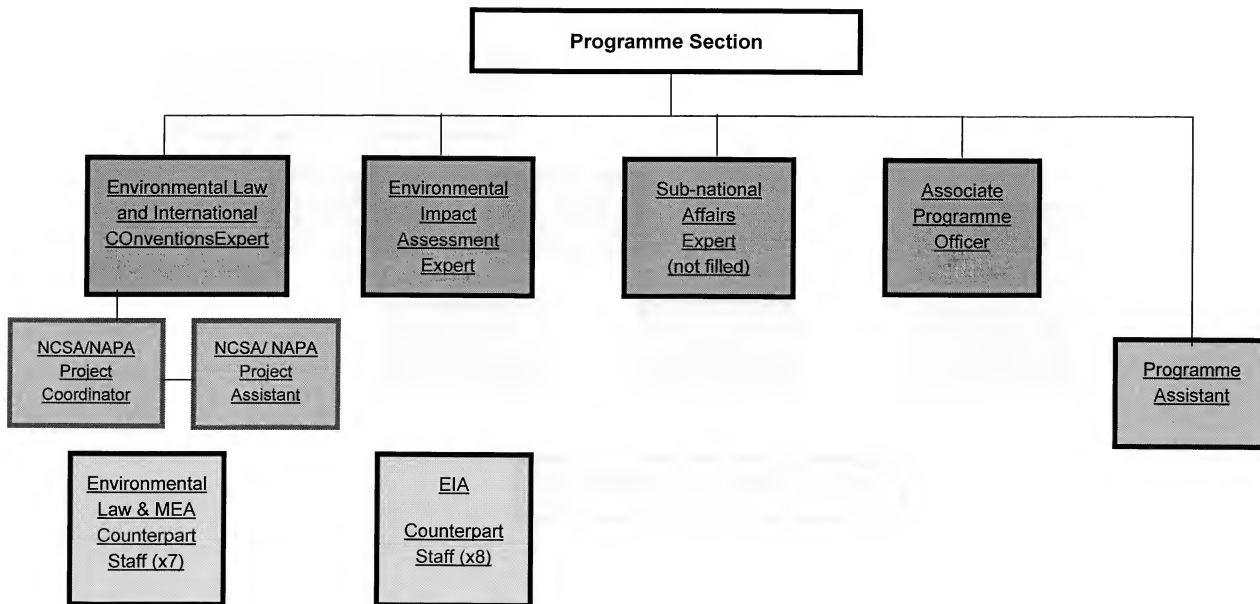
Name	Title
Purna Rajbhandari	Programme Officer
Tin Aung Moe	Senior Programme Officer
Bayasgalan Sanduijav	Computer Specialist

#### IV. UNEP Kabul, Programme Organigramme

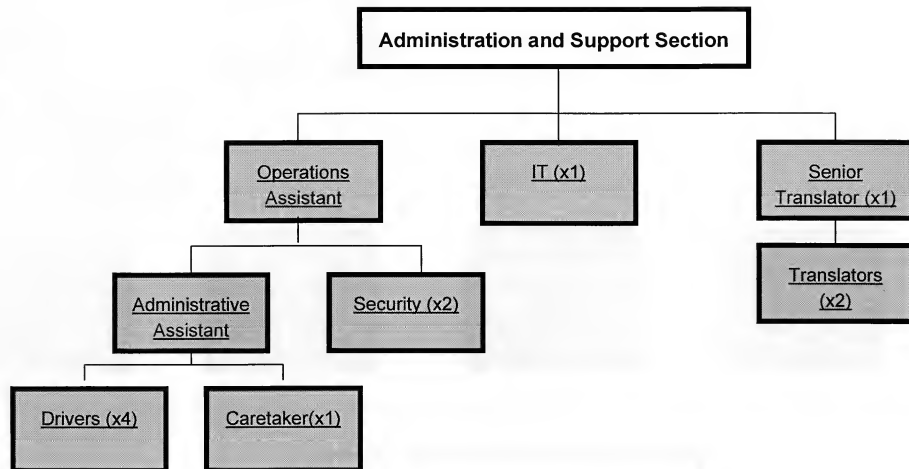
Legend :







necessary for guiding treks and climbs, building capacity with local populations, and promoting community-based and environmentally-friendly tourism development. The will be prospective Mountain Liaison Officers once tourism will develop. *Ozone Day*: UNEP supported the National Ozone Unit (NOU) of NEPA in the organization of the celebrations for the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September in the International Press Centre of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in Kabul. In the run-up to the celebrations the NOU launched the broadcasting of the OzzyOzone video in local languages through local television networks. Information leaflets and other awareness raising materials have been distributed at Kabul University and in schools. *Customs Officers Workshop on Monitoring and Control of ODS*: The National Ozone Unit (NOU) in collaboration with UNEP and the General Directorate of Customs of the Afghan Ministry of Finance (MoF) organized a “National Train-the-Trainers Workshop for Customs Officers on Monitoring and Control of Ozone Depleting Substances” in Kabul, from 28 – 30 November. In total, 40 participants from Afghanistan’s customs department (MoF), including border check posts, the Ministry of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce and Pakistan’s Customs Office attended the 3-day workshop. The training was delivered by members of the NOU, NEPA, the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, India (NACEN) and the UNEP. *Introductory Workshop on key Environmental Issues in Afghanistan*: UNEP in collaboration with NEPA organized an Introductory Workshop on key Environmental Issues in Afghanistan for 10 media trainers of the Center for International Journalism (CIJ) in Kabul. The workshop took place on three half-days from 27 – 29 December 2005 in Kabul and covered sessions on the state of the environment in Afghanistan, ecologically significant areas in Afghanistan, community awareness regarding environmental protection, desertification, climate change, ozone layer protection, solid waste management, waste water management, air pollution and the role of journalism in environmental protection. The participants from the Center of International Journalism were media trainers who will train a wide range of journalists throughout Afghanistan’s provinces.



## V. National Ozone Unit, National Environmental Protection Agency

Name	Title
Zahid Ullah Hamdard	National Ozone Officer
Fahima Qiami	Assistant National Ozone Officer
Nasrullah Khan	Assistant National Ozone Officer

## VI. UNEP Counterpart Staff, National Environmental Protection Agency

Name	Job title / Section (DoE)	Counterpart in the field of
Fahkria Muskaan	Technical Staff of the Planning Dept.	EIA
Suna Ghafari	Official of the Effect of the Industries Dept.	EIA
Nasir Ahmad	Staff of the Studies and Research Dept.	EIA
Hamidullah	Technical Staff of the Sanitation Dept.	EIA
Rahimullah Under	Official of the Economics Inquiry Dept.	EIA
Mohammad Sadiq	Head of Tree Development and Protection Section in the Dept. of Natural Resources	EIA/ Law
Abdul Rafi	Technical Staff of the Effect of Industries Dept.	EIA/ Law
M. Karim Mughbil	Head of the Underground Water Resources Section	EIA
Mohammad Usman	Head of the Law and Legislation Dept.	Law
Hakimkhan Kuchi	Official of Dry Land Animals in the Studies Dept.	Law
Diana Sadat	Technical Staff of the Studies and Research Dept.	Law
Habib u Rahman	Technical accountant in the Inquiry Dept.	Law
Leeda Ouria	Technical Staff of the Sanitation Dept.	MEA
Sadiquallah Ahmadzai	Technical Staff of the Air and Water Pollution Dept.	MEA
Samiullah Hashmi	Computer Operator	MEA

## VII. National Environmental Protection Agency staff sent for Training to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok

Name	Job title / Section (NEPA)	(AIT) Training / possible counterpart in the field of
Abdul Rab Azeem	Vice President Foreign Affairs in Cultural Management Dept.	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Hamid Bahani	Executive Staff in the Planning Dept.	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Mohammad Nawab	Professional Staff	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Samiullah Faquirzada	Staff of Supervision & Investigation Dept.	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Wahidulla Ibrahimi	Professional Staff of NEPA	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Wazirgul Haqmal	Professional Staff of Environment	Generic Technical Training/ Environmental Policy
Ahmad Lemar Nabizada	Health Technician	GIS/RS Training/ Environmental Information and Monitoring
Javed Gulistan	Employee of NEPA	GIS/RS Training/ Environmental Information and Monitoring
Zakia Sarwari	Executive Staff of NEPA	Library Training/ Environmental Information and Monitoring
M.Rafi Ratea	Executive Director for Province Rel. Dept. in NEPA	Library Training/ Environmental Information and Monitoring

## Annex II: Overview on International Conferences/ Trainings

---

### I. Facilitation of participation of Afghan delegates in international conferences/ meetings/ workshops

#### 2005

- Inter-linkages Initiative, Regional Workshop on Integrated Capacity Development for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Asia, 2005, 14 - 16 February 2005 (Colombo, Sri Lanka): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Khan Wali Kamran, DoE Jalalabad.
- Regional Consultation on the Draft BAT/BEP Guidelines for the South East Asian region, 7 - 9 March 2005 (Bangkok, Thailand), organized by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Samiullah Hashmi, Staff of DoE and UNEP MEA Counterpart.
- Eminent Scientist Symposium, side event for the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) 2005, 24 - 25 March 2005 (Seoul, Republic of Korea), organized by UNESCAP, Korea Environment Institute (KEI), International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP): UNEP facilitated the participation of Dr. Nasar Ahmad Kohestani, Director of Environment Conservation Centre, Kabul University, Mr. Akbar Khalid, Head of Pollution Control Department, DoE, Mr. M. Sayed Qazi, National Programme Assistant, UNEP.
- IPCC meeting (Working Groups I and III), 6 - 8 April 2005 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sadeeq Ullah Ahmadzai, NEPA official and UNEP MEA Counterpart.
- Regional Ozone Network for South Asia Network Meeting "Gearing up for 2007 and beyond", 20 - 23 April 2005 (Beijing, China), organized by UNEP/ DTIE under the MLF: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Nasrullah Khan, Assistant Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Khudadad Faqahi, Deputy Director for Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Ms. Belinda Bowling, Environmental Law Expert, UNEP, Afghanistan
- Third Session for the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 3), UNCCD, 2 - 11 May 2005 (Bonn, Germany), UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, MoAAHF.
- Asian Regional Meeting on the Ramsar Convention in preparation for COP 9, 13 - 16 May 2005 (Beijing, China), UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, MoAAHF.
- International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins, 30 May - 1 June 2005 (Dushanbe, Tadjikistan), organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with support of the UN: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA.
- Central Asia Flyway / CMS Meeting/ Meeting to endorse the proposed western/ central Asian sitenetwork for Siberian cranes (and other waterbirds), 10-13 June 2005 (Dehli, India), organized by CMS/ UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation

of Mr. Sulaiman Shah Salary, NEPA and Mr. Abdul Samai Sakhi, Director National Parks, Forest and Range Department, MoAAHF.

- 25th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, 27 June – 1 July 2005 (Montreal, Canada), organized by Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Daud Saba, Advisor to the DG of NEPA
- Silk Road CITES Enforcement Seminar, 22 - 25 August 2005 (Urumqi, China), organized by the CITES Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Haidar Haidari, Director of Environment of Forests and Ranges General Directorate, MAAHF and Mr. Abdullah Nazary, Police Department, Kabul Airport.
- 9th Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and Meeting of the third Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) - South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), 24-26 August 2005 (Thimpu, Bhutan): UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA.
- ECO meeting on the Environmental Impact Assessment, 20 - 21 September 2005 (Ankara, Turkey), organized by ECO: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Faiz Mohammad Rawan, NEPA.
- National Workshop on the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs (National Consultative Workshop on the UN Conventions on Biodiversity, Migratory Species and Wetlands (RAMSAR)), 21-23 September 2005 (Islamabad, Pakistan) organized by the Government of Pakistan, UNEP, IUCN: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Sadeeq Ullah Ahmad Zai, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA counterpart staff, Mr. Jarullah Mansoor, NEPA Chief of staff (not officially appointed as yet) and Mr. Mohammad Waheed Ibrahimzada, Forests and Rangeland Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Animal Husbandry.
- South Asia Regional Workshop for Negotiators of Multilateral Agreements (MEAs), 5-7 October 2005 (Colombo, Sri Lanka), organized by SACEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Samiullah Nuristani, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA counterpart staff
- COP7 for the UNCCD, 15-28 October 2005 (Nairobi, Kenya), organized by the UNCCD Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Technical Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture.
- Afghanistan–Iran meeting on the Sistan basin wetlands, 5-7 December 2005 (Geneva Switzerland). UNEP facilitated the meeting.
- Joint COP 7 for the Vienna Convention and MOP 17 for the parties of the Montreal Protocol, 12 – 16 December 2005 (Dakar, Senegal), organized by the Ozone Secretariat: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, NEPA and Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA.

## II. Facilitation of participation of Afghan delegates in international/ regional training courses

2005

- Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank: UNEP facilitated the participation of 5 DoE staff, working as UNEP EIA counterpart staff: Mr. Nasir Ahmad, Mr. Hamidullah, Mr. Mohammad Sadiq, Mr. M. Karim Mughbil, Mr. Abdul Rafi.
- Seminar on Policy Implementation and Alternative Technologies Concerning Ozone Layer Protection, 16 January - 19 February 2005 (Tokyo, Japan) organized by JICA. UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah, National Ozone Officer, National Ozone Unit, DoE, Afghanistan.
- 2-3 rd Joint SEAP-SA Customs- ODS Officers Coordination Workshop, 25 - 27 April 2005 (Beijing, China), organized by UNEP/ DTIE, SIDA: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Nasrullah Khan, Assistant Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA, Mr. Mirwais Yar Tanai, Internal Audit Manager, Directorate General of Customs, Ministry of Finance
- Group Training Course in Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System, 19 May - 8 July 2005 (Osaka, Japan), organized by Global Environment Center (GEC), JICA, Env. Sewerage Bureau, Osaka: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Rahimullah Ander, NEPA Official and UNEP EIA Counterpart staff in this course sponsored by the Government of Japan.
- Ten of staff of NEPA were selected to attend different training courses at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok in early 2005 as part of the training and capacity building provided under components 6 and 7 of UNEPs capacity building programme. Following one month intensive English language training in April 2005, 6 staff (Mr. Wazir Gul, Mr. Hamid Bahni, Mr. Abdul Rab Azem, Mr. Wahidullah Ibrahimi, Mr. Samiullah Faqerzada and Mr. Nawab Nuristani) attended and still attend a 4-month generic environmental course, 2 staff ( Mr. Javed Gulistan and Mr. Ahmad Lemar ) attended a two-month GIS/RS technical training course (Global Information System/ Remote Sensing) and 2 staff (Mr. Mohammad Rafi Ratea and Ms. Zakia Sarwary ) attended a one-month library training course.
- Course on International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy, organized by the University of Joensuu – UNEP, 14 - 26 August 2005 at Joensuu, Finland: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Zahid Ullah Hamdard, National Ozone Officer, NOU, NEPA
- Methods of Pollution Control for Environmental Engineers, 27 September - 19 November 2005 (Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan), organized by JICA: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Gholam Rasul, NEPA Official.
- UNEP Training Workshop on Environmental Law, 16-19 October 2005 (Bali, Indonesia), organized by UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr. Habib u Rahman, NEPA Official and UNEP Law Counterpart staff.
- Seventh UNEP Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy (GTP 7), 7 - 18 November 2005 (Nairobi, Kenya), organized by UNEP: UNEP facilitated the participation of Mr Sadeeq Ullah Ahmadzai, NEPA Official and UNEP MEA Counterpart staff.



### III. "Thursday Sessions" / Presentations for NEPA staff by NEPA staff and others

## 2005

- 6 January 2005 Mr. Yasin, Mr. Ghulam Rasol, both staff of the DoE, Presentation on their attendance of the Training Programme for Train the Trainers on (Good Refrigerant Management Practices) in Refrigeration and MAC sectors organized by UNIDO, 11-15 December 2004 in Mashad, Iran.
- 13 January 2005, Dr. Abdul Malik, General Secretary Radiation Commission & Focal Point of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Afghanistan, Introducing his field of work
- 10 February 2005, Mr. Rahimullah Under, presentation on the training received at the training course, Mr. Amin "Sustainability and Environmental Management in SMEs (SEM)", 11 October - 3 December 2004 (India) organized by nisiet (National Institute of Small Industry Extension training, India)
- 3 March 2005, Mr. Baqi, Deputy Coordinator for Provinces, DoE, presentation on the DoE mission to the provinces of Baghlan, Kunduz, Balkh and Takhar, from 23 July – 22 August, 2004.
- 10 March 2005, Mr. Baqi, Deputy Coordinator for Provinces, DoE, continuation of presentation on the DoE mission to the provinces of Baghlan, Kunduz, Balkh and Takhar, from 23 July – 22 August, 2004.
- 17 March 2005, General orientation, Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister for Environment, DoE
- 24 March 2005, General orientation, Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Minister for Environment, DoE
- 7 April 2005, Mr. Farhad, UNDP and Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq, UNEP National Project Coordinator, GEF CCD WM, Eng Farhad, Rahim, Training WS for Asian Countries on GEF's sustainable Land Management Approach
- 9 June 2005, Presentation of Deputy Director General Dost Mohammad Amin on the International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins from 30 May - 1 June 2005 in Tadjikistan
- 26 June 2005, Presentation on the Central Asia Flyway / CMS Meeting to endorse the proposed western/ central Asian site network for Siberian cranes (and other waterbirds) by Mr. Suliamonshah Salary, NEPA and Mr. Abdul Samai Sakhi, Director National Parks, Forest and Range Department, MoAAHF
- 30 June 2005, presentation on wetland rehabilitation and the example of Kole-Haashmat Khan, by ACC and Ed Giering, P.E Engineer, Lousiana, USDA-NRCS
- 7 July 2005, presentation on Ozone Laye Protection and the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IPCC (6 –8 May 2005, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia), Mr. Sadeeq Ullah Ahmadzai, NEPA official and UNEP MEA counterpart
- 14 July 2005, General orientation, Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General NEPA

- 4 August 2005, Presentation on their mission to Hamoun –e-Pouzak in Nimroz and their findings, Mr. Wali Modaqiq, GEF Project Coordinator, UNEP and Mr. Jan Ali Brahoe, NEPA official
- 11 August 2005, Report on the NEPA EIA staff mission to Herat, Mr. Karim Mughbil and Mr. Abdul Rafi, NEPA officials and UNEP EIA counterpart staff
- 1 September 2005, presentation on the negative impacts of chemicals on agriculture and the importance of beneficial insects, Mr Salih Mohammad, NEPA
- 6 October 2005 Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Human Rights and the work of the Commission
- 1 December 2005, Sadeeq Ullah from NEPA presentation with regard to the Environmental Law and Policy Training he attended in Nairobi. In this session he will focus on the Climate Change Convention and the Ramsar Convention.

## **Annex III: Afghanistan's Interim National Development Strategy (I – ANDS) and the Environment**

---

*UNEP assisted the Government of Afghanistan to build environmental considerations and benchmarks into Afghanistan's new development framework, the "Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS)", which is a five-year strategy that complements the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The I-ANDS will also be the Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy (I-PRSP) for Afghanistan. The I-ANDS benchmarks have been included in the outcome document of the Afghanistan donor conference held in London in January-February 2006, wherein the pursuit of fiscal, institutional and environmental sustainability has been stated a principle of cooperation.*

### **(I -) ANDS development process**

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is the Government of Afghanistan's overarching strategy for promoting growth, generating wealth and reducing poverty and vulnerability. It will provide the framework for the development of Government policies, and guide the allocation of resources and programmes towards these goals. The NDS is being prepared in two phases: (i) an Interim NDS was prepared during 2005, and (ii) a Final NDS will be completed during 2006. The existing strategies of the government and the international community – namely the National Development Framework (NDF, 2002), the National Development Budgets for 1381-1383, Securing Afghanistan's Future (2004), the Berlin Work Plan, the 12 National Priority Programmes (NPP), the 16 Public Investment Programmes (PIP), the UN Common Country Assessment for Afghanistan (UN CCA, 2004), the National Human Development Report (NHDR, 2004) and the UN Development Assistance Framework for Afghanistan (UNDAF, 2005) – are being used as the foundations of the NDS. Inconsistencies across strategies are being debated and conclusions reached for the NDS. The Government of Afghanistan is committed to integrating the MDGs into the NDS. The targets will be adapted to the specific context and priorities of Afghanistan, and will strike a balance between ambition and realism. The Interim NDS will be submitted to the Boards of the World Bank and the IMF in the expectation that it will meet the benchmarks of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP). This may generate additional benefits for Afghanistan in the mid- to long-term. The final NDS, to be completed in 2006, will likewise be presented to the Boards of the Bank and IMF, as Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

### **Mainstreaming Environment into the development agenda and the (I-) ANDS**

UNEP contributed substantially to the formulation of environmental strategies for Afghanistan:

- As a member of the Afghanistan UN CCA Working Group on Economic Growth and Development, UNEP was the main drafter of the section on environment and natural resources in the UN Common Country Assessment for Afghanistan. The chapter appears in the UNCCA as "Using Natural Resources Sustainably".
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is one of the four pillars of Afghanistan UN UNDAF. The chapter on ENR was drafted by a working group, co-chaired by UNEP and FAO.

- Along with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP co-chaired the Technical Working Group on MDG7 ("Ensure Environmental Sustainability"), and provided extensive reference material to the drafting team of the MDG Report for Afghanistan. The drafting team's main document of reference was UNEP Post Conflict Assessment Report. The draft chapter on MDG 7 was vetted and amended by UNEP, before its finalization and release.

UNEP provided its comments and input to the vision, outline and issues paper and the draft Interim NDS within the consultation forum for UN and donor agencies and international financial institutions, one of the four consultation fora established to ensure and encourage the participation of all stakeholders and partners to the development of the NDS. Environmental protection has been highlighted as one of the key components of Pillar 2 – sustainable economic and social development - under infrastructure, natural resources and private sector, as well as agriculture and rural development, which indicates that it has been mainstreamed to a priority issue within the development agenda, in line with the MDG approach. As part of the I-ANDS, a benchmark document has been prepared through a consultative process. Several themes were identified and individual theme groups drafted benchmark documents on individual themes. Two kinds of theme groups were constituted: theme groups comprising of representatives of the Government of Afghanistan; and theme groups comprising of representatives of the international community. A high level committee synthesized the outputs of the theme groups.

UNEP and NEPA were members of two theme groups: Infrastructure, natural resources and private sector, and agriculture and rural development. The consultations resulted in the creation of a separate cross cutting theme group on environment and drafting of a theme paper on environment. The environment theme paper calls for (i) coordination of environmental affairs at international, regional, national and sub-national levels; (ii) development and implementation of environmental laws, policies and strategies in order to integrate ecological issues in development projects through the environmental impact assessment process; (iii) provision of environmental management services for protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control; and (iv) raising of awareness of environmental issues as key environmental policies of the Government of Afghanistan.

The final I-ANDS benchmark document, including a benchmark for environment, has been annexed to the Post Bonn Compact document, which was released at the end of the London meeting, held on 31 January – 1 February 2006. The benchmark for environment reads *"In line with Afghanistan's Millenium Development Goals, environmental regulatory frameworks and management services will be established for the protection of air and water quality, waste management and pollution control, and natural resource policies will be developed and implementation started at all levels of government as well as the community level, by end 2007."*

- **Human Resources:** UNEP appointed a Community Based Natural Resources Management Expert who joined the team in May.
- **Equipment:** In the first quarter 2005, an additional two vehicles and 32 computers were procured for the National Environmental Protection Agency. All equipment purchased by the programme will be officially transferred to the NEPA when the UNEP programme completes its operations in 2006. During 2005 UNEP continued to assemble environmental publications for the environmental library established in NEPA in 2004.

#### **Contact**

Dr. Asif Ali Zaidi  
 Programme Manager  
 United Nations Environment Programme  
 Post-Conflict Branch  
 National Environmental Protection Agency  
 Darulaman  
 Kabul, Afghanistan  
 Tel 1: + 93 799.325.678  
 Tel 2: + 93 70.276.431  
 Email: [asif.zaidi@unep.ch](mailto:asif.zaidi@unep.ch)

David E. Jensen  
 Project Coordinator  
 United Nations Environment Programme  
 Post-Conflict Branch  
 International Environment House  
 Geneva, Switzerland  
 Tel. +41 22 917 8167  
 Fax. +41 22 917 8064  
 Email: [david.jensen@unep.ch](mailto:david.jensen@unep.ch)  
 Web <http://postconflict.unep.ch>

## Annex IV: Overview on Training Activities and Resources translated into Dari for the Implementation of the EIA component

### Training Activities

2005		
2 - 10 January 2005	Training	Management of Environmental and Social Issues in the Urban and Power Sectors
31 January 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
1 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
2 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
February/March	Group Work	Developing policy for EIA and environmentally sensitive areas
13 February 2005	Case Study	Wool scoring plant proposal - Kunduz
15 February 2005	Lecture	How to give a professional presentation
17 February 2005	Presentation of EIA counterparts	Presentation on the training on Management Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank.
21 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Policy making for EIA in Afghanistan
22 February 2005	Lecture/Training	Law Policy and Institutional Arrangements for EIA
24 February 2005	Presentation of EIA counterparts	Presentation on the training on Management Training on Management of Environmental and Social Issues (focus: Power and Urban Sector) for Officers of the Government of Afghanistan, 9 -18 January 2005 (New Delhi, India) organized by the World Bank.
15 March 2005	Session	Introduction to Pollution Control
19 May 2005	Training	Pollution Control - Policy Workshop
21 May 2005	Training	Pollution Control - Policy Instruments Workshop
22 May 2005	Lecture	Scoping
25 May 2005	Lecture	Scoping

26 May 2005	Presentation	Bamyan - Charakay Power Line EIA
10 July 2005	Lecture	EIA Provisions in the draft Environmental Law
13 July 2005	Test	EIA Concepts and Theory
21 July 2005	Lecture	Presentation on EIA relevant matters with regard to a chemical factory in Mazar-e Sharif
28 July 2005	Presentation of EIA Counterparts	Lessons learnt from EIA mission to Mazar-e Sharif, assessment of chemical factory
2 October 2005	Lecture	Introduction to Policy and Policy Development
16 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan – Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
20 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan – Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
23 November 2005	Lecture/Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan – Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
27 November 2005	Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan – Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping
30 November 2005	Training	EIA Policy in Afghanistan – Developing a Policy Approach for Screening and Scoping

## EIA Project Training Activities

Activity	Time/Date	Outcomes
Kunduz Wool Scouring Plant	Feb-05	Advice from DoE on pollution control requirements for project
Bamyan-Charakay Power Line	Apr-05	EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
Carpet Washing and Cutting Facilities	May-05	Developing guidelines for treatment of wastewater
Mazar - Irrigation Projects	Jun-05	EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
Western Basins - Irrigation Projects	Jun-05	EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
ESA policy development	Jun 05 =>	Developing a policy approach for NEPA
ESA policy development	Jun 05 =>	Developing a policy approach for NEPA
Western Basins - Irrigation Projects	Jul-05	EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
IPDA Licencing	Sept 05 =>	Preliminary licencing system for SME's in industrial parks
Salma Dam rehabilitation	Oct 05	EIA screening, scoping and preliminary impact assessment
Carpet Industry	Oct-05	Opportunities for development of sustainable practices
Yakowlang Agricultural Development Project	Nov 05	Environmental review and advice to proponent
Panjshir Valley Hazardous Waste	Nov 05	Site review of hazardous waste material



### Resources Translated to Support Component

Various lecture notes 2 sessions	Prepared by EIA Expert
Guideline No 1 - Screening of Projects	Prepared by EIA Expert
Documents supporting MRRD training	Prepared by EIA Expert
Professional Practice - EIA and the Urban Planning Crisis in Turkey	IA&PA Vol 17 June 99
EIA in India - the Indian Experience	IAIA Conference Papers 1998
Environmental Impact Assessment in Uzbekistan	IA&PA Vol 22 June 04
Pollution Control Workshop - Slides/Handouts	
ESA Discussion Paper	Prepared by NEPA and UNEP
Guidelines for Sensitive and Critical Areas - Policy from Pakistan	Pakistan EPA
The Role of EIA in Sustainable Development	UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual

## Annex V: Overview on Environmental Law and Multilateral Environmental Agreement Training Activities

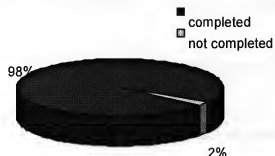
2005		
24 March 2005	Lecture/Training	Pollution Prevention and Control Legislation
30 March 2005	Lecture/Training	Waste Management Legislation
March – April 2005	Intensive training on the draft Environmental Management Act (2 weeks in total), in which the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Agriculture and Food environmental law focal points also participated	
6 April 2005	Training	EMA (draft) Chapter 1
7 April 2005	Training	EMA (draft) Chapter 2
5 May 2005	Workshop	Workshop on the GEF (DGEF, UNEP mission)
10 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
11 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
12 May 2005	Training	Environmental Management Act Overview
15 May 2005	Workshop	Biodiversity Chapter - workshop for MoA - only 2 counterparts from DoE required to attend - others at EIA session
17 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
18 May 2005	Workshop	Debriefing on workshop
22 May 2005		Consultation with MoA - no counterparts required to attend
24 May 2005		Dispatch of invitations and ministerial interface
28 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
29 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
31 May 2005	Workshop	Consultation workshop
1 June 2005	A workshop on the draft Environmental Management Act was held for officials in the Forests and Rangeland Department of the Ministry of Agriculture	
28 Aug 2005	Training	Promulgation process for the EMA
31 Aug 2005	Training	Report writing

5 September 2005	Training	Meaning and global implications of the concept "sustainable development"
7 September 2005	Training	Basic skills training in project proposal development
11 September 2005	Training	Overview of the UN Convention on Climate Change
14 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
21 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste
25 September 2005	Training	Overview of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

## Annex VI: Overview on the estimated percentage of completion of the planned activities as per December 2005

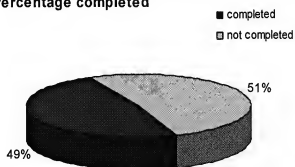
Component 0	
Total number of planned activities	12
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	11
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	1
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	1

**Component 0  
Percentage completed**



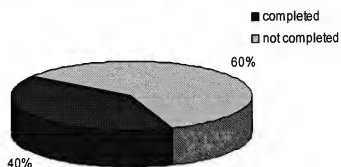
Component 1	
Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	8
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	8
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	2
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	4

**Component 1  
Percentage completed**



Component 2	
Total number of planned activities	13
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	5
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	7
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	1

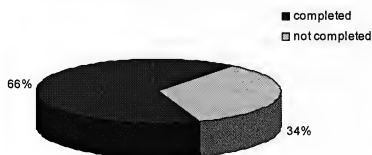
**Component 2  
Percentage completed**



### Component 3

Total number of planned activities	22
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	12
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	5
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	4
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2

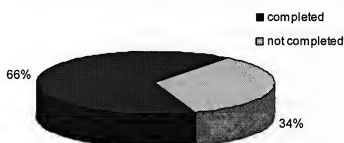
#### Component 3 Percentage completed



### Component 4

Total number of planned activities	17
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	8
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	2
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	6
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2

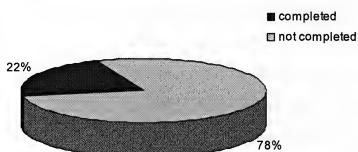
#### Component 4 Percentage completed



### Component 5

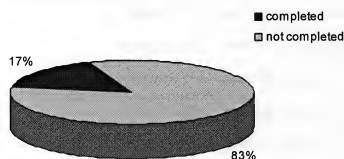
Total number of planned activities	15
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	4
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	8
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0

#### Component 5 Percentage completed



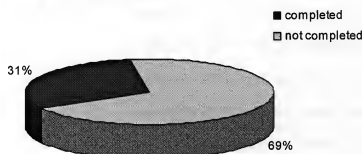
Component 6	
Total number of planned activities	15
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	11
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0

**Component 6  
Percentage completed**



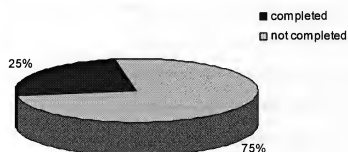
Component 7	
Total number of planned activities	13
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	5
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	0
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0

**Component 7  
Percentage completed**



Component 8	
Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	3
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	2
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	2
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	11
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	2

**Component 8  
Percentage completed**



### Component 9

Total number of planned activities	18
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	11
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	1
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	0
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	5
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	3
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	0

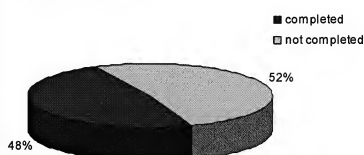
**Component 9**  
Percentage completed



### ALL Components (Dec 2005)

Total number of planned activities	161
Number of planned activities 100 % completed	61
Number of planned activities 75 % completed	7
Number of planned activities 50 % completed	17
Number of planned activities 25 % completed	13
Number of planned activities 0 % completed	63
Number of additional activities implemented 2004	19
Number of additional activities implemented 2005	12

**All Components (Dec 2005)**  
Percentage completed



## Table of Contents

---

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2 The Afghanistan Context in 2005 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>3 Preparatory Activities and Staff Recruitment (Component 0) .....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1. Introduction .....	13
3.2. Summary of Progress .....	13
<b>4 Environmental Coordination (Component 1) .....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1. Introduction .....	16
4.2. Summary of Progress .....	16
<b>5 Institutional Restructuring (Component 2) .....</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1. Introduction .....	21
5.2. Summary of Progress .....	21
<b>6 Environmental Impact Assessment (Component 3) .....</b>	<b>25</b>
6.1. Introduction .....	25
6.2. Summary of Progress .....	26
<b>7 Environmental Law (Component 4) .....</b>	<b>31</b>
7.1. Introduction .....	31
7.2. Summary of Progress .....	31
<b>8 Community-based Natural Resources Management (Component 5) .....</b>	<b>37</b>
8.1. Introduction .....	37
8.2. Recruitment of CBNRM Expert .....	37
8.3. Status of activities .....	38
8.4. Summary of Progress .....	39
<b>9 Environment Policy and Planning (Component 6) and Monitoring, Information and Analysis (Component 7) .....</b>	<b>42</b>
9.1. Introduction .....	42
9.2. Summary of Progress / Component 6 .....	42
9.3. Summary of Progress / Component 7 .....	46
<b>10 Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education (Component 8) .....</b>	<b>50</b>
10.1. Introduction .....	50
10.2. Summary of Progress .....	51
<b>11 Multilateral environmental agreements (Component 9) .....</b>	<b>57</b>
11.1. Introduction .....	57
11.2. Summary of Progress .....	57
<b>12 Conclusions and Next Steps .....</b>	<b>63</b>
12.1. Progress made, lessons learned and the focus areas for 2006 .....	63



<b>Annex I: Overview on UNEPs staff and organization in Kabul and UNEPs Counterpart Staff from the NEPA .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Annex II: Overview on International Conferences/ Trainings .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Annex III: Afghanistan’s Interim National Development Strategy (I – ANDS) and the Environment.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Annex IV: Overview on Training Activities and Resources translated into Dari for the Implementation of the EIA component.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Annex V: Overview on Environmental Law and Multilateral Environmental Agreement Training Activities.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Annex VI: Overview on the estimated percentage of completion of the planned activities as per December 2005 .....</b>	<b>86</b>